



Jordan Times

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Communists approve Gorbachev programme

MOSCOW (R) — Top Soviet communists, Friday backed President Mikhail Gorbachev's radical new programme which jettisons much of the party's Marxist legacy, but conservatives said the party could still split over the issue. The move, a key element of the party's Central Committee's new programme, passed a resolution considering the draft programme "acceptable basis for further work." They said only a few dozen members of the 42-member body voted against the resolution, turning the document over to a commission and calling for it to be considered at a party congress later in the year. Mr. Gorbachev also used the Central Committee platform to denounce Russian President Boris Yeltsin's desire to ban Communist Party cells from work places in the Russian Federation — raising the possibility of a new conflict between the two most prominent figures in Soviet politics. Mr. Gorbachev vowed to use "all constitutional means, up to and including a presidential decree," to counter Mr. Yeltsin's move, seen by communists as a threat to their well-oiled network. The ease with which Mr. Gorbachev secured approval for his programme belied predictions before the plenum of a fierce battle between liberals and hardliners. But conservatives said the threatened split had only been postponed. See earlier story on page 8.

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Gadhafi: Israel not interested in peace

NICOSTIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi has accused Israel of planning a war against its Arab neighbours to establish a state stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates rivers. Colonel Gadhafi, in a speech reported by the Libyan news agency JANA Friday, ridiculed U.S.-sponsored plans for what he called a "so-called" Arab-Israeli peace conference. "The Israelis are not much interested in being recognised by the Arabs because they are continuing the production of nuclear bombs," he said in the speech in Tripoli Thursday. "The enemies are going on building their air and naval forces, millions of migrant Jews are flooding into Palestine and after some years they will attack Egypt, Syria and Jordan to establish their state extending from the Nile to the Euphrates."

Mubarak in Paris

PARIS (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Paris Friday for a 24-hour visit during which he will discuss Middle East peace prospects with President François Mitterrand, officials said. Mr. Mubarak arrived from London, where he urged to show more flexibility on the latest U.S. proposals for Middle East peace talks and Britain joined him in calling for a positive Israeli response. France is mediating between Washington and Palestinians to try to solve the thorny problem of who should represent their at a peace conference.

Lebanese militia sells arms to Slovenia

BEIRUT (AP) — A government official Friday confirmed reports that the main rightist militia, the Lebanese Forces, has sold weapons worth \$350 million to the secessionist Yugoslav republic of Slovenia. But the militia's main spokesman, George Abdul Massih, denied there had been any such sale either before or after the Lebanese Forces agreed to disarm under a civil war peace accord. The official of the administration of President Elias Hrawi and Mr. Abdul Massih spoke a day after reports from Yugoslavia said seven ships loaded with weapons from Lebanon had arrived at a Yugoslav port. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said the 27,000-ton consignment to Slovenia included four French-made Gazelle helicopter gunships, several patrol boats and many types of artillery, multi-barrelled rocket launchers and ammunition. He added that the ships sailed from the port of Jounieh, 20 kilometers north of Beirut, during the first two weeks of June. He said the deal was negotiated through unnamed German arms-dealers.

One dead in attack in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Separatist Kurds fired rockets at a government office in the southern Turkish town of Uludere in Sirnak province, killing a watchman and wounding two others, security sources said Friday. In another attack, also by guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), two state tobacco trucks and two cars were set ablaze on an eastern road between Mus and Solhan towns, the sources said. They said guerrillas stopped the vehicles and set them on fire after ordering the drivers out.

U.N. official ends Cyprus talks in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A senior U.N. official said Friday he held useful talks with Turkish officials and would follow them up in Athens Saturday. "We had useful and positive talks," Oscar Camilleri, special representative of U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, told the semi-official Anatolian news agency. "We are not interested in the procedural aspects of a meeting among the parties concerned. What we now need is progress on the substance of the parties." He said his efforts did not depend on any specific proposal for settlement talks.

Husseini, Levy say peace process at an impasse over representation

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN LEADERS said Friday that talks on a Middle East peace conference had reached an impasse that could only be broken by Israeli acceptance of Palestinian representation from occupied Arab Jerusalem. They added, however, that discussions on Arab Jerusalem could come at a later stage of any conference. "I believe we are facing a problem with Israeli obstacles," said Faisal Al Hussein, widely seen as the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) representative in the Israeli-occupied territories. "I believe that we can solve this problem by making it clear to the Israelis that what they are asking is unacceptable," Mr. Hussein told a Stockholm news conference. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy also said in an interview published Friday that the dispute over Palestinian negotiators was the main obstacle standing in the way of a Middle East peace conference. Mr. Levy's remarks suggested that Israel is willing to make concessions on two other disputed points — participation of a

U.N. observer and periodical reconvening of the conference.

But Israel Radio reported that Israel is posing new conditions before it will accept the U.S. formula for peace talks. The radio said Israel insists the goals of the negotiations are spelled out in advance and that Israel is shown the wording of invitations to the conference before they are issued. Mr. Hussein and Nabil Shaath, a diplomatic adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, were in Stockholm for talks with Foreign Minister Sten Andersson whom they asked to help persuade the United States to support the Palestinian position on Arab Jerusalem. Israel insists that Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem cannot take part in a peace conference, it has ruled out any discussion on the future of the city, which it "annexed in 1967." Mr. Hussein, who has discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, said Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem must participate in any peace conference. Mr. Baker's efforts to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks have stalled over who should represent the Palestinians.

Mr. Shaath accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of trying to avoid a peace conference by raising obstacles.

"There is an impasse," Mr. Shaath said. "Mr. Shamir now is trying to find a way to say 'no'." Mr. Hussein said Arab Jerusalem Palestinians must be represented from the start of any conference, but the city's status could be reserved for later sessions, as proposed on Thursday by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. "We understand very well that the matter of Jerusalem is so sensitive, and maybe it will be discussed at a later stage, but representation from (Arab) East Jerusalem must be from the beginning," Mr. Hussein said. Matthias Mossberg, the top Middle East official at Sweden's foreign ministry, said his country "has never recognised the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem." He said Sweden wished to see East Jerusalem represented by Palestinians in peace talks. "Israel has said it would enter peace talks if Mr. Baker gave them an acceptable list of Palestinian negotiators, but Mr. Hussein said only the Palestinians could choose their representatives."

Mr. Shaath said he feared Washington might concede to Israel's position on Arab Jerusalem to get the talks started.

He said Palestinian leaders wanted Mr. Baker to make a clear statement of U.S. support for their position. Mr. Shaath said the PLO would endorse a physically unified Jerusalem, overseen by an umbrella council, in which residents would be free to travel and worship within the city. "We are talking about two capitals in the same city, with free circulation and no physical barriers between the two," Mr. Shaath said. The new Israeli conditions, spelled out by Mr. Levy Friday, may have issued in response to Syria's claim Thursday that it was promised by the United States that Israel would withdraw from the Golan Heights (see page 2). Mr. Shamir has said repeatedly he would not withdraw from any occupied land, including the Golan. Israel has said it will not respond to the American peace initiative until all its questions have been answered. A poll published Friday said 78

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Baz suggests dual control of Jerusalem

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak's chief political adviser has echoed Palestinian suggestions that Jerusalem could be jointly run by Israelis and Palestinians. The future of the Holy City and the issue of whether a Palestinian delegation should include Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem are key stumbling blocks in U.S. efforts to convene Middle East peace talks. "We're saying that an acceptable formula could be reached... where, with unity (of the city's administration) its sovereignty would be split," Osama Al Baz said in an interview with the daily Al Sharq Al Awsat, published Friday. Dr. Baz told the paper, published in London and Cairo, that Arabs could not forget Arab Jerusalem was part of the West Bank. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refuses to negotiate with Palestinians from the city's eastern part because he claims Jerusalem is the Jewish state's "indivisible capital."

Leading Arab Jerusalem activist Faisal Al Hussein suggested

dual sovereignty over the city in Paris Thursday after talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Mr. Dumas is mediating between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on who should represent Palestinians at peace talks. Dr. Baz said the dual control solution might be appropriate because Arabs had the same rights to the city as Jews but division of the city would be unacceptable to the international community. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, among the more dovish members of Mr. Shamir's cabinet, flies to Cairo Monday on the first trip by a senior Israeli cabinet member since Yitzhak Rabin went there as defence minister in September 1989. A senior U.S. official, who spoke in Washington on condition of anonymity, said it would be useful to discuss the status of Jerusalem in the initial stages of peace talks because "it obviously is the most difficult issue to solve."

The senior U.S. official added:

Israel giving settlers free land in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli government decided last November to give Jewish settlers land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip free of charge, a spokesman said Friday. Danny Naveh, spokesman for Defence Minister Moshe Arens, told Reuters that the decision was taken by Mr. Arens and hawkish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, known for his relentless drive to build Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. "For years the government has been helping people that are settling in areas (in Israel) that are not so popular," he said. "They decided (in November 1990) if people want to get land over there (in the occupied territories) and build houses, they could get land for free," he added. All settlers had previously bought their land from an Israeli government agency, the "Land and Development Authority."

The Israeli newspaper Davar Friday described the decision as secret but Mr. Naveh said it was just unpublished.

Most of the land was barren,

the spokesman added. Yehiel Leket, director of rural settlements for the World Zionist Organisation, told Reuters that since Mr. Sharon was appointed housing minister in June 1990 rules had ceased to apply in the West Bank. "According to my understanding of what is going on in the West Bank, it is like the wild west — no real planning and violation of all kinds of rules," he said. Some 100,000 settlers live in heavily fortified settlements among the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories. The United States, trying to launch Arab-Israeli peace talks, has repeatedly called Jewish settlement in the occupied territories an obstacle to peace. Israel this month rejected a call from the Group of Seven industrialised nations to halt settlement activity in exchange for an end to the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state. A prominent Palestinian lawyer said Friday an unidentified gunman wounded his 15-year-old cousin in an attack he believed was meant for him.

Iraq accuses IAEA of playing politics, setting stage for attack

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq accused the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Friday of playing politics over its nuclear programme and helping to set the stage for a new U.S. military strike. Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer, in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar published by the army newspaper Qadisiyah, rejected IAEA suggestions that Iraq had broken its rules. He said Iraqi technicians were cooperating fully "in a practical atmosphere" with IAEA inspectors looking for evidence of a nuclear weapons programme. The IAEA attitude had caused "discomfort and concern" and was politically motivated "to prepare for a new military aggression on Iraq after it had handed over its complete nuclear programme," he added. A deadline for full Iraqi disclosure of its weapons of mass destruction passed Thursday. Washington, which threatened to attack Iraq if it did not fully reveal its nuclear secrets, said Baghdad had not provided details of all of them but played down suggestions that a military strike was imminent. Iraq said Thursday the whole debate on its nuclear programme

should be left to the scientists. It described the mission of a third team of U.N. inspectors as "fruitful and positive" and expressed the hope that "the scientific climate" would continue during the visit of a fourth team which is expected in Baghdad Saturday. In an editorial, Al Qadisiyah accused Washington of seeking to destroy Iraq and impose a political system to suit its own plans. The IAEA has accused Iraq of breaching the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by concealing a uranium enrichment programme. Under the ceasefire terms imposed on Iraq after the Gulf war, Baghdad must declare and scrap all its weapons of mass destruction. Iraq says that its nuclear programmes are for peaceful, scientific research. IAEA head Hans Blix asserted Friday Iraq had learned how to build a nuclear bomb and there is no plausible peaceful explanation for its mastery of the technique. Mr. Blix said Iraq's programme relied mainly on a technique that "costs much more electricity than it would ever give from enriched uranium in nuclear power reactors."

"It's a very expensive method," he added in an Amer-

ican satellite television interview from Vienna, where the IAEA is based. "There is no plausible peaceful explanation of what they have been doing." Mr. Blix said the IAEA team was seeking more information on the extent to which a uranium enrichment programme using advanced centrifuge technology was complementing an antiquated electromagnetic technique. "In particular, we cannot be sure that the information they gave of having enriched about half a kilogramme of uranium... is full disclosure," he said. "There might be more." Mr. Blix said he was unable to pinpoint how close Iraq had been to having the bomb. "But I can say if a country has mastered the technique of enriching uranium, it's only a matter of time before they can make a bomb — and Iraq had mastered that technique."

Informal accord on oil sales

The U.N. Security Council has reached an informal agreement to tightly monitor any Iraqi oil exports it permits to assure the

START treaty to be initialled Monday

GENEVA (R) — Soviet and U.S. negotiators will initial the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) treaty Monday, U.S. delegation spokesman Robert Heath said Friday. It will then go to Moscow to be signed by Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev during their summit meeting starting Tuesday. "Monday morning there will be a final plebany and the initialling of the finished treaty at the Soviet mission," Mr. Heath told Reuters. Chief Soviet negotiator Yuri Mazarkin and his U.S. counterpart Linton Brooks will initial each page of the accord — expected to be about 600 pages — culminating nine years of work. The document, the first actually to cut long-range nuclear arsenals, will be flown to Moscow, where the presidents are expected to sign it Wednesday. Implementation of the treaty will destroy about 7,000 nuclear warheads, reducing the Soviet stockpile to about 7,000 from 11,000 and the U.S. to approximately 9,000 from 12,000.

PLO leaders debate strategy and options

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is meeting in an emergency session in Tunis to discuss strategy vis-a-vis the American-led peace process, including the key issue of Palestinian representation in peace talks with Israel. Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Affairs Department, were to brief the decision-making panel on the outcome of their contacts with the governments of Egypt, Jordan and Syria as well as dissident Palestinian factions. Mr. Abbas visited Cairo and Amman last week while Mr. Kaddoumi was in Damascus meeting Syrian leaders and Palestinians who broke away from the mainstream PLO leadership. One of the key themes expected to figure high in the Tunis meeting, according to a Tunis-based source, is how far the PLO could go in trusting the American administration to bring about a solution which will guarantee the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. "There is a lot of mistrust of the Americans," said the source. "It has led to a hardening of position towards Palestinian representation in peace talks to the extent that the entire issue of the form of participation is under question."

According to the source three options are under consideration by the PLO leadership. These are:

— Abandoning Palestinian delegation not necessarily including any PLO members but who are approved by the PLO leadership along with representatives of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. This is not acceptable to Israel and the United States.

— The second option is a unified Arab delegation. Hardline PLO factions and dissidents are known to favour this option if an independent Palestinian team could not be formed or accepted, but the Syrian and Lebanese positions on this are not known.

— The third alternative is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. This is accepted by Israel and the United States as long as the team does not include any PLO members. But the third and perhaps the most

viable option is opposed by several leading members of the PLO Executive Committee, including Mr. Kaddoumi himself, said the Tunis-based source.

"It is not a question of any mistrust of Jordan," said the source. "But there is fear that the Americans will seek to apply pressure on the Palestinian delegates through Jordan," he added. Jordanian officials are non-committal on the entire issue. "It is a purely independent Palestinian decision," said one official. "Jordan is not going to convince or pressure the Palestinians into anything," the official added.

The issue of a joint delegation was indeed discussed during Mr. Abbas' visit to Amman last week, and now the Jordanian government is awaiting the PLO decision, said the official.

In general terms, at least seven members of the 14-member PLO executive committee — whose voting strength is reduced to 13 after the death of one member — are seen to favour a joint delegation with Jordan. They include, according to independent Palestinian sources, Mohammad Mithem, Abdul Razak Al Yahya, Bishop Elia Khoury, Abdullah Hourani, Jaweed Ghossein and Jamal Sourani in addition to Mr. Abbas.

The hardline camp led by Mr. Kaddoumi include Abu Ali Mustafa of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Sulaiman Najjaf of the Palestine Communist Party and Mohammad Abbas of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), according to the sources.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, who "nominal" represents the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Nayef Hawatmeh, has been "non-committal so far," if only because "his personal stand contradicts that of Mr. Hawatmeh, who opposes a joint delegation with Jordan," said one of the sources.

One seat in the Executive Committee is vacant following the death of Abdul-Rahman Ahmad of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF) in May. Chairman Yasser Arafat is the 14th member of the committee.

One of the topics under consideration in Tunis is convening the policy-making Palestine National Council (PNC), which includes a large number of independent Palestinians who are not affiliated with any faction of the PLO, according to the source in

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Brotherhood condemns attacks and threats against national security

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood Friday condemned all attacks and threats against Jordan's national security and said it had to know full facts before commenting on a government statement charging an underground group with carrying out a series of attacks in Jordan. "We, the Muslim Brotherhood, condemn all actions against the security of the country," said Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the movement in Jordan. "I cannot comment on the arrests reported by the government until I have full details of the affair," he told the Jordan Times. Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, a spokesman for the Brotherhood which is at odds with the government of Taher Masi, also said his movement was not espousing violence. "We will confront (the government) through democracy," Mr. Abu Ghanimeh was quoted as saying by Reuters. "We don't believe in using force. Dialogue is the best way."

planted a bomb at a mosque. Other attacks attributed to the group by the government, which cited confessions by some of the arrested members of the group, included an attack on a guard at a government department, and arson against shops and businesses in Amman, Irbid, Karak and Zarqa, opening fire at banks and planting explosive in some foreign banks in the past few months.

The statement raised immediate suspicion against extremist groups such as the Islamic Liberation Front, the Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Magdas and several others. But spokesmen for these groups immediately denied that they were linked in any way to the attacks and attempts outlined in the government statement.

"The Prophet Mohammed's Army is believed to be the military wing of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, and it was not immediately clear whether the reference was to the same group. "These actions reflect irresponsible behaviour and malice from an illegal group which received its training and orders from abroad," the statement said.

Last Wednesday a member of the Brotherhood movement in Parliament demanded a clarification from the government on what he called "the uncalculated storming of homes of Islamists." The deputy was apparently referring to the arrests of some Islamists believed to be connected with the Prophet Mohammed's Army group.

In the government statement said that police investigations indicated that some of the funds used to buy arms by the group were collected under the pretext of raising money for freedom fighters in Afghanistan and Palestine.

"Those detained admitted to us how they carried out some of their crimes and how they smuggled firearms into the country," it said. Police seized an arsenal of weapons which included 62 machineguns, 10 pistols, and over 30 kilograms of explosives and handgrenades, it said. During the Gulf crisis, two branches of a British bank and an American bank as well as the French Cultural Centre was attacked.

Officials explain Jordan's position

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference will be aimed at securing its own national interests and those of its citizens, and the Kingdom has no intention whatsoever to represent Palestinians or give concessions on Palestinian rights and territories, informed government sources said Friday. The sources also disclosed that there are no "preconditions" attached to the agreement that Jordan reached with the United States to participate in the proposed conference during Secretary of State James Baker's talks here last week.

Talking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, the sources pointed out that Jordan has a key role to play in peace talks by virtue of Israel's occupation of at least 600 square kilometres of Jordanian territory and the Kingdom's interest in access to water resources and agreements on border and security arrangements in addition to the status of Palestinians carrying Jordanian documents.

"There are issues that directly concern Jordan," said one of the sources.

The source said Jordan has no intention or desire to represent the Palestinian people or replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in negotiations. "The PLO remains the only legitimate representative of Palestinians, and the only party which can sign any agreements on Palestinian rights or the status of the Israeli-occupied territories," said the source.

"But we also reserve our right to protect our interests and negotiate our status as an Arab country which has been greatly affected by the Israeli occupation of the territories," the source added.

Jordan has said that it was willing to accept the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the Palestinian side makes an explicit request to this effect. The proposal was discussed during a visit to Jordan by a PLO delegation last week and Jordan is awaiting a formal PLO response to the idea, another senior official said.

"We cannot yet say what is happening to the idea of a joint delegation since we still have not received an answer from the PLO," said the official.

In any event, at no point during the negotiations will Jordan assume the role of a Palestinian negotiator, the source said. "It will be a completely independent Palestinian decision in all matters concerned," he said.

His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that Jordan was committed to its 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank and that the Kingdom will not negotiate in place of the PLO even within the framework of a joint delegation.

The official source said that there was still a "misconception about Jordan's role in peace talks." He directly referred to a statement issued by the Lower House of Parliament rejecting all American initiatives for peace and denouncing the "double standard" of the U.S.

He also referred to comments by Arab nationalist and Muslim Brotherhood deputies, in last Wednesday's House session, in which they accused the government of

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Sharaa says Bush assured Syria of Israeli pullout

DAMASCUS (AP) — Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa says President George Bush has assured Syria that Israel would withdraw from all fronts, including the Golan Heights, as part of a peace agreement.

But a Bush administration official says the United States had not taken a new position, and merely repeated to Syria that it agrees with U.N. resolutions saying that "land for peace applies to all the fronts, including the Golan Heights."

An aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel would not agree to any "land-for-peace" deal and said that if the United States had made such a pledge, it cast doubt on Washington's peacemaking role.

"Israel expects the United States to be an honest broker," said the statement from Yossi Achimeir, director of Mr. Shamir's office. The United States "should not stand alongside Syria against Israel on these positions."

The Thursday developments came as the United States and Arab states awaited Israel's response to Secretary of State James Baker's proposals for a peace conference.

Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan have agreed to attend the conference, and Saudi Arabia has said it will attend as an observer.

A reporter asked Mr. Sharaa at a news conference in Damascus, "Did Bush really mention withdrawal from all fronts?"

Mr. Sharaa responded, "Yes, yes, and the American administration's rejection of the annexation of one centimetre of the Golan Heights."

He also said: "This American stand, as Bush expressed in his letter, is the one which gave us a glimmer of hope in the possibility of reaching a comprehensive and just peace in the region."

He apparently was referring to a letter Mr. Bush sent Syrian President Hafez Al Assad proposing a peace conference.

"All the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war should be restored to the Arabs in a peaceful settlement. They should be

the outcome of the peace conference... geography does not achieve Israeli security," Mr. Sharaa said.

A Bush administration official said the president had outlined to Syria its view of two U.N. Security Council resolutions, Resolution 242 calls for Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. Resolution 338 calls on all parties to negotiate peace.

"What the president said was that we consider that 242 and 338, that is land for peace, applies to all the fronts, including the Golan Heights. And therefore we do not recognise the unilateral extension of Israeli law, in other words the annexation of the Golan Heights... that isn't new."

Mr. Shamir's top political adviser, Yossi Ben-Aharon, had said before Mr. Sharaa's remarks were reported that Israel would not concede the Golan Heights.

Two other obstacles to peace emerged: Israeli left-wingers disclosed secret government plans to build up to 4,000 more housing units in the occupied territories, and Israel Thursday opened an office to register private property in the occupied West Bank.

"The government is putting facts on the ground which might make any political process just impossible," lawmaker Dedi Zucker of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement said, after publishing the housing ministry document.

The Israeli "Peace Now" group published the document saying nearly 4,000 prefabricated units would be built in the next few months in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It said the document says the ministry recently ordered 4,081 light housing units, which could be put up within a few weeks, of which 3,840 will be built in the occupied territories.

The housing ministry did not deny the document existed but claimed it was misinterpreted.

Mr. Baker has called Jewish settlements in the occupied territories the biggest obstacle to

peace. His complaints seem to have abated recently as he sought to bring Israel into the peace process. But the latest settlement plans cannot help the atmosphere at a crucial moment for the future of U.S.-proposed negotiations.

The opening of a property office in Ariel, the largest Jewish city-settlement, appeared to fasten Israel's grip on the West Bank.

Mr. Bush, meanwhile, made another appeal to the Israelis to "respond favourably to this historic opportunity for peace and security."

"I know the Palestinians are closely examining their choices," he added Thursday in remarks at a convention of the Antiochian Orthodox Christians. "Here, too, I would ask only that they do everything possible to take advantage of this unprecedented situation to attain their legitimate rights and at the same time further the cause of peace."

Mr. Ben-Aharon said the cabinet was not ready to vote on Mr. Baker's proposals.

"We still have some things to clarify," he said on Israel Television.

He referred to Israel's insistence on keeping the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of peace talks and refusal to allow Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem to participate in the conference.

"It is Israel's capital and not subject to negotiation," Mr. Ben-Aharon contended. He also ruled out two Palestinians whom Mr. Baker has been meeting as prospective negotiators, saying it was because they represented the PLO.

Mr. Shamir has been in delicate political position because of concern by hardliners that he will make "territorial concessions." But his position seemed to shore up Thursday, when Israeli ultra-nationalist lawmakers postponed plans to topple his government after they were assured Israel would refuse to negotiate "sovereignty" over Jerusalem.

U.S. public wanted war prolonged

NEW YORK (AP) — Seventy per cent of Americans surveyed in an Associated Press poll said the United States should have continued fighting the Gulf war to force Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power.

As the Iraqi president remains in power five months after the war, the poll taken July 17-21 found only 22 per cent agreeing with the decision to cease fighting without overthrowing President Saddam.

A comparable AP poll the second week of the war found Americans favoured President Saddam's ouster by a 59-38 per cent margin, though it was never the expressed goal of Operation Desert Storm.

The latest poll showed no erosion in the war's broad support. Six in 10 called the U.S. military effort completely or mostly successful.

President George Bush's decision to go to war when he did held a 73 per cent approval level, statistically no different from the 74 per cent found by the AP poll Jan. 23-27.

Those disapproving dropped from 24 per cent to 19 per cent because a higher "don't know" response, particularly among women.

ICR Survey Research Group of Media, interviewed a random sample of 1,002 adults by telephone. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points.

Mr. Bush's ceasefire declaration Feb. 27 froze allied forces in positions in southern Iraq more than 240 kilometres from Baghdad. Half of Iraq's military forces remained intact.

American Commander General H. Norman Schwarzkopf stirred controversy in April when he told an interviewer he had recommended the offensive be pressed beyond Feb. 27, since "we could have continued to wreak great destruction on them." He later apologised for any embarrassment his remarks caused Mr. Bush.

The allies hoped Iraq's military humiliation and diplomatic and economic isolation would be enough to topple President Saddam after the war. Mr. Bush had encouraged uprisings by Shiite Muslim and Kurdish rebels, allied bombings had devastated Iraq's economy and sanctions had cut off its oil revenue.

But the Iraqi president has since quelled the rebellions and consolidated his power. The poll showed a large majority said preventing Iraq from developing nuclear weapons was a good reason for going to war. The margin of agreement, 86-12 per cent, compares with 74-24 per cent in AP's pre-war poll taken Jan. 4-7.

The interviewers read five possible reasons for going to war. A majority said each was a "good reason" and those five separate majorities overlapped to the extent that an overwhelming 97 per cent agreed with at least one reason.

More than two-thirds said restoring Kuwait's government was a good reason for going to war. The margin, 69-26 per cent, was an increase from 59-38 per cent before the war.

Reports of the oil-rich monarchy's harsh treatment of suspected wartime collaborators, among other image-clouding developments, apparently did not overshadow a public perception that Kuwait deserved to be liberated.

The lasting images of Americans' march into Kuwait City may account for the 12 per cent who said the U.S. military effort was completely successful, and 48 per cent who rated it mostly successful. About a third said it was only somewhat successful and just five per cent said it was not at all successful.

Baker rejects halt on arms for Middle East

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker turned down Thursday a congressional proposal to halt arms sales to the Middle East, saying it would work against peace and stability.

Such a moratorium would not be helpful, even in the short term, he wrote to Representative Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives.

"Some of our regional friends have genuine needs for additional military equipment, which should be addressed in the context of their efforts and ours to build credible collective security arrangements which can deter future conflicts," he wrote.

"An arbitrary moratorium on all arms transfers would actually work against our efforts to advance regional peace and stability."

The letter was delivered by Under Secretary Reginald Bartholomew during a hearing by committee members. Mr. Fassel

argued for the proposed moratorium, which has been approved by the House but not yet considered by the Senate.

He explained that it would remain in effect only as long as other major arms suppliers — Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — also refrained from major sales.

Mr. Bartholomew represented the United States at a first meeting with them July 8 and 9, where they agreed to move towards making all arms sales public. More meetings will be held in September and October.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, said that in less than a year since the start of the Gulf war President George Bush has proposed sales of more than \$15 billion worth of arms to the region. He compared that with \$13.9 billion in 1990 and \$10.7 billion in 1989.

"We're telling the others: 'don't do as we do, do as we

say... We are not going to be credible until we slow... not eliminate our flow of arms to the region."

Mr. Bartholomew replied that at the meeting with the other big suppliers the other countries insisted on the right of countries to self-defence.

"They would regard (a moratorium) as inconsistent with the true nature of the effort, which is to create restraint and responsibility," he said.

"If we were to propose that I would be spending all my time arguing with them about a temporary moratorium, instead of spending our time on what we want to be spending it... what can we agree to in the way of real guidelines for restraint, real mechanism for restraint."

Mr. Bartholomew appeared at a joint hearing of Mr. Hamilton's subcommittee and the subcommittee on arms control.

Mr. Baker also rejected the idea of a ban on joint production of weapons with countries in the Middle East. He did not say if Israel, because of its advanced industry, would be qualified for production agreements with the United States.

He added that the Bush administration is working with other arms suppliers on guidelines to allow those Mr. Fassel proposed: No introduction of new weapons into the area, harmonising national laws on exporting conventional weapons and knowing that can be used both for weapons and for peaceful purposes.

But he said he would be careful about linking arms restraint measures to political conditions, because that might weaken support for restraint.

"We also think there would be serious practical and political obstacles to any attempt to register or verify existing arms inventories," he said.

Lahd: Release of some Shiites likely, no deal for hostages

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — A pro-Israeli militia commander said Friday he was negotiating with Shiite Muslims a swap of Lebanese detainees, but ruled out an imminent package deal that would also secure the release of Western hostages.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said the pro-Iranian Hizbollah sent him a message through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) two weeks ago proposing the exchange.

"They spoke of a limited swap. A package deal is not being mentioned. It's frozen," said General Lahd in an interview at the tiled-roof, stone-built militia headquarters in this border town.

The 3,500-strong SLA is financed, trained and armed by Israel. It helps patrol Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, and controls a detention centre in the village of Khiam.

Gen. Lahd, a retired Lebanese officer, said "just over 300" inmates are held at Khiam. He refused to give an exact figure.

There are 13 westerners missing in Lebanon — six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian. Most of them are believed held by Shiite zealots linked to Hizbollah.

Shiite leaders, including the head of Hizbollah, Abbas Musawi, have said the hostages could be freed in return for all those held in Khiam.

Israel has insisted that seven servicemen missing since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon be included in the swap, and Gen. Lahd wants 10 missing militiamen back.

"I am not willing to free the Khiam inmates, for instance, just for the sake of the Western hostages while some of my men and soldiers of Israeli defence force are still missing," Lahd said.

Most of the Khiam inmates are members of Hizbollah or other groups involved in a guerrilla warfare against Israeli troops and the SLA in South Lebanon.

They are seeking the liberation of the 1,100-square-kilometre piece of land occupied by Israel.

Gen. Lahd pointed to another

hurdle that might further delay a package deal.

He said not all the inmates at Khiam were being held on political charges and that some, imprisoned for criminal offenses, would not be freed. Hizbollah is certain to object to the exclusion of any one at Khiam in the event of a package deal.

In the message handed by delegates of the ICRC, Hizbollah "informed me... that they have the bodies of four of my soldiers (militiamen) and are detaining three others," Gen. Lahd said.

"I sent back word through the Red Cross that I am ready for a swap, and gave them a list of four bodies and three Hizbollah detainees" who would be turned over by the SLA if an agreement is reached.

"It's very strange that I have not yet received a reply from them," he said, adding that he has no word on the fate of three other missing militiamen who were not mentioned in Hizbollah's message.

"Any swap has to be balanced," he said. "If they want

the detainees to be freed one by one or in a group, it doesn't matter."

"If they include Israeli servicemen in the swap, I will release a larger number from Khiam. If they throw in the (Western) hostages, we will free even larger numbers," Gen. Lahd said.

The longest-held of the Western hostages is American journalist Terry Anderson. Mr. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

Islamic jihad which claimed Mr. Anderson's abduction, last week released a picture of him in captivity.

It accompanied a statement that warned of "grave consequences" if two Lebanese brothers jailed in Germany were not freed.

Mohammad Ali Hamadi was sentenced to life for killing an American sailor during the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner.

His brother, Abbas, who is serving a prison term on kidnapping charges, was injured in prison violence earlier this month.

Algerian Islamists demand end to emergency

ALGIERS (AP) — Muslim fundamentalists meeting for the first time since the government cracked down on their movement demanded Friday the release of their jailed leaders and an end to the state of emergency.

The ruling council of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) ended the two-day meeting by spelling out conditions for participating in a national conference to prepare for legislative elections.

Chief among them are the release from prison of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, president and vice-president of the FIS, and an end to the crackdown on their movement.

"The party comes out of this meeting stronger," commented Abdelkader Hachani, head of the front's hardline wing.

Mr. Hachani did not say whether the party had chosen a new leader, one of the ostensible aims of the meeting.

The setting of conditions indicated that the hardliners had carried the day over moderates in the closed-door gathering of 200 leading front members at a cinema in the eastern city of Batna.

The moderates had urged full participation in the conference, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, as a means to legitimately reenter the country's political life.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali has called the gathering of Algeria's 30 political parties to set rules for the elections.

Officials explain position

(Continued from page 1)

ment of preparing to abandon Palestinian national rights.

"Neither do we not have the intention to do any such thing nor do we have the right or jurisdiction to do so," the official said.

"The rights of Palestinians, whether to territory or to self-determination, are within the jurisdiction of the Palestinian representatives," the official added.

PLO leaders debate strategy

(Continued from page 1)

Tunis. But in view of moves to streamline the membership of the PNC and introduce reforms, there is a feeling that there is not enough time to convene a council meeting," the source said. "Nonetheless, it is possible that the Executive Committee may decide to refer the entire issue of

"They are Lebanon, Egypt and Syria entering negotiations along with the PLO?" the official asked, adding that each of these countries wanted to ensure its own interests, whether territorial or strategic, within the framework of a conference and through bilateral talks.

"Jordan," the official said, "also has its own interests to consider and cannot stand on the sidelines while the future of this part of the region is being decided."

Mr. Arafat's advisor Bassam Abu Sharif and other unidentified PLO officials were quoted as saying last week that the PLO was willing to drop its insistence on direct participation in a peace conference as long as the organisation named the delegates. But there was no official PLO statement confirming this shift in position.

sell some oil in order to pay for its own emergency needs. Iraq is prohibited from foreign trade under a sweeping embargo imposed after it invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2.

Mr. Pickering said the U.S. government sympathises with the suffering of the Iraqi people but wants to make sure Baghdad is not hoarding food and making people suffer in order to win international sympathy.

Western diplomats said they expected a detailed "package" resolution specifying the authorised uses of oil revenues and leaving virtually no discretionary funds to the Iraqi government.

U.N. relief officials have recommended Iraq be allowed to

Baz suggests dual control

(Continued from page 1)

"The more that you can put that (the status of Jerusalem) in the rear... rather than to the front, the better chance you have of making progress, and as you make progress it will become less intransigent."

It would take some "constructive diplomacy" to satisfy the concerns of the Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem, he added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, explaining his country's acceptance of the latest U.S. proposals, said President George Bush had given Damascus assurances that Israel must withdraw on all fronts in return for peace.

Peace process at 'impasse'

(Continued from page 1)

per cent of Israelis want the government to say "yes" to the Americans. Seventeen per cent said Israel should refuse, and five per cent did not answer.

The telephone poll, published in the Yediot Ahronoth newspaper, was conducted Tuesday and Wednesday, and has a margin of error of five per cent.

Mr. Levy, speaking in an interview with the Jerusalem Post newspaper, said Mr. Baker might return possibly right after next week's U.S.-Soviet summit, to show Israel a list of possible Palestinian delegates.

"This (Palestinian representation) is the main problem. The rest of the things we'll overcome together," Mr. Levy said.

Iran built moderate image on neutrality in Gulf crisis

By Mohammad Zarqan
Reuters

NICOSIA — Iran emerged as one of the biggest political winners of the Gulf crisis which crippled its old enemy Iraq.

Despite worries that the U.S. triumph over Iraq could bring a long period of Washington domination in the Gulf, Iran is banking on its newly-projected moderate image to claim a bigger role in the oil-rich region's mainstream politics.

When Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2 last year, Baghdad replaced Tehran's fundamentalist Muslim rulers as the West's bogeyman in the Gulf.

Keeping Iran neutral in the conflict, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani seized the opportunity to try to dispel perceptions of Iran's revolution as a destructive adventure.

"The crisis was something of a godsend for Iran," said a senior Western diplomat in Tehran.

"It re-established international confidence in Iran. It removed the single biggest threat to Iran, which was Iraq's military might. This was a tremendous plus for Iran."

Iranian leaders, too, described the invasion as a manifestation of divine providence, pitting the Islamic republic's enemies against each other. Kuwait had bankrolled Iraq's eight-year war with Iran which ended in a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

Tehran received its first big reward less than two weeks after the invasion when Iraq and Iran made peace.

Iraq withdrew its last soldiers from Iranian soil, accepted a 1975 treaty giving Iran control over the eastern half of the Shatt Al Arab border waterway, and freed some 37,000 Iranian prisoners of war.

Iran proclaimed the agreement as the "biggest political victory since the 1979 Islamic revolution."

Diplomats said that even the most costly aspect of the crisis for Iran — the influx of more than a million refugees following crushed rebellions in Iraq after the Gulf war — worked in its favour by winning it praise for its humanitarian effort.

Less than 24 hours after Iraq's tanks rolled into Kuwait, Tehran condemned the invasion, laying to rest fears that it might join its former war enemy's call for a crusade against the United States and pro-Western Arab states.

The benefits flowed in the form of renewed diplomatic ties with seven countries on both sides of the conflict, including Britain and Saudi Arabia, which together with other Gulf Arabs affirmed Iran's role in regional security.

Trade with European countries and Japan has increased between 30 and 50 per cent over last year although foreigners are still wary of long-term investment, diplomats say.

Even Washington made a gesture by allowing U.S. firms to buy Iranian crude oil for the first time since 1987. But Tehran said it had no plans to resume relations with the "great Satan" of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution.

"We have proven to the world in the past couple of years that ours is not a revolution without brakes," Mr. Rafsanjani said this month.

"Our policy in the Persian Gulf crisis, about the refugees... proved that we have a clear line and are not after adventurism."

Iran stayed neutral throughout the conflict. Its rapprochement with Baghdad came to a halt when Iraq accused Iran of fomenting a post-war rebellion by Shiite Muslims in the south.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
19:00 News in French
19:15 Carrot Notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kafe and Allie
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Rawhide Years"

PRAYER TIMES

04:12 Fajr
10:42 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:42 Maghrib
20:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish,

Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383
Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654922
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 29
Aqaba 26 / 38
Deserts 20 / 34
Jordan Valley 24 / 35

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nabil Al Muridi 615338
Dr. Sami Khouri 681373
Dr. Joseph Imih 705060
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 783708
Firas pharmacy 669192
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Azma pharmacy 637055
Narouhi pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Fidiya Al Jabour (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (775825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Fadel (—)
Khafieh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 620441
Rescue Police 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 664166
Al-Jah, Al-Jah 777012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905060
The Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Rm Al Nafess Hospital (02)247100

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

House to discuss laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Sunday at 5 p.m. under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masi and the Cabinet members. The House is scheduled to discuss the Jordanian economy protection law for the year 1991 and a law pertaining to abolishing martial law regulations for the year 1991. The Upper House of Parliament is scheduled to hold a session Saturday under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al-Lawzi and in the presence of Mr. Masi and the ministers. The House will discuss recommendations by its legal committee concerning several amended laws.

Minister visits refinery

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher visited Friday the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRCO) in the city of Zarqa and met with its director and senior officials. The meeting discussed issues pertaining to storing oil and its derivatives as well as the ongoing studies which aim at increasing the storage capacity.

Iraqi delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An Iraqi delegation headed by Al Anbar district governor arrived in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Interior Minister Jawdat Al Esboul and Public Security Department Director Maj. Gen. Fadel Ali Fuhed. The delegation will also meet with Al Masraq governor for talks on enhancing cooperation and coordination between border authorities in the two countries.

Association calls for unified Arab ranks

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Secretariat of the Arab Economists Association Friday called for unifying Arab ranks and bolstering joint Arab action. The General Secretariat called, in a statement issued Friday, for promoting democratic life in Arab countries and for giving the Arab people a say in defining the future of the Arab World. The statement said the best way for serving the Arab Nation's interests was to take full control over its wealth and resources. The statement called on all international organisations and the world public opinion to resolve the Palestinian question in a manner that guarantees giving the Palestinian people right to establish a state on their national soil in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

Editor to analyse political issues on T.V.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Masa Keilani, the editor-in-chief of Ad Dustour Arabic daily, will speak tonight about the confrontation between the Muslim Brotherhood movement and Prime Minister Taher Masi. He will analyse the background to the differences between the various blocs in Parliament and the reasons some voted against Mr. Masi's government. Dr. Keilani will also explain the significance of having a Palestinian-born premier at this stage in Jordan's political development which, he said, is considered a sign of maturity. There will be an analysis of current events in Jordan and the impact of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the Kingdom. Dr. Keilani will appear on Jordan Television's English channel's "Encounter" programme, which is presented by Rami Khouri.

Seminar tackles Islamic history teaching

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on teaching Arab and Islamic history in the Islamic World concluded its meetings in Amman Friday. The seminar, which was organised by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), in cooperation with the Jordanian National Committee on Education, called for setting up scientific establishments whose task would be rewriting and reinterpreting Islamic history. The seminar recommended adopting modern methods in teaching history and stressed the importance of teaching contemporary Arab and Islamic history at schools in ISESCO's member states.

Meeting discusses pasture land in south

MANN (Petra) — Issues related to the use of pasture lands in Al Mudawara region were discussed Thursday in a meeting which was chaired by Maan Governor Qasem Al Farayya and attended by representatives of agricultural companies operating in south Jordan. The companies attending the meeting agreed to allow cattle breeders to use certain areas owned by the companies as grazing lands for their cattle during the months of August and September and to use the companies' water tankers free of charge.

Volunteers donate aid to disabled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has received donations of equipment for the five community centres for the disabled in Jordan from two people who have worked as volunteers at the centres. Inge Jonasson of Sweden, who was a volunteer from 1989 till early this year, collected 11,800 worth of crutches, wheelchairs, physiotherapy aids, sewing machines, as well as a hand loom and clothes from the public in Sweden and sent them to UNRWA in Jordan. Fenny Kragt, a Dutch volunteer at the centres since February 1990, has donated a number of wheelchairs and walking frames as well as embroidery materials and clothes which she collected while on holiday in Holland last March. The estimated value of these materials is \$1,000.

Controversy erupts over movement of border post

AMMAN (J.T.) — Member of Parliament from the Ramtha district Mohammad Al Dardour has called on the government to cancel plans for the establishment of a new border post near the Jordanian-Syrian border, saying it will further aggravate the area's unemployment problem.

The government is currently working on the JD 2.5 million project in order to provide better facilities for travellers at the border. The site of the project is far from business area of the northern town of Ramtha.

Mr. Dardour told two ministers visiting the site Thursday that there was a high rate of unemployed people in Ramtha, especially among those with college degrees. He said the shifting of the new border post from the city would further aggravate the unemployment situation and cause economic recession to the business and transport sectors of the area.

Mr. Dardour demanded that the new project be cancelled and that local residents be offered alternatives to their present means of living.

Ramtha District Governor Salati Nassar, who attended the meeting, said that local residents would be adversely affected by the shifting of the border post to another site. He said that a majority of people in Ramtha, earn their living directly or indirectly from the old border post, located at the northern end of the town.

Minister of Interior Jawdat Esboul and Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi first visited

Irbid and met its governor, Fayez Abbadi, to discuss the general situation in the region. Mr. Esboul told a meeting in Irbid that several measures would have to be introduced in Parliament so that the government can meet the needs of the governorate citizens.

The health minister announced the allocation of JD 200,000 to carry out maintenance to the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. He also said that improvements would be introduced to the gynecology and obstetrics units at the hospital and that the government plans to help the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) set up its own training hospital in order to be able to offer medical services to local inhabitants.

Several speakers at the meeting, including the chairman of the local chamber of commerce, demanded decentralisation, with the local authorities given more power, to help carry out tasks related to customs clearing and public services.

The health minister announced that Ramtha Hospital could not cope with the growing demand for health services by the 75,000 inhabitants. The government will announce a tender for the construction of a new hospital for which allocations will be made in the next fiscal budget, he said.

After touring the hospital, the border part and other centres, Mr. Esboul said that the question of the new border post and its ramifications would be considered by the government.

League head, Jordan discuss Arab solidarity

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The just concluded visit to Jordan by Arab League Secretary General Ismat Meguid bears a major significance as it fell between the Gulf crisis and the new current moves to bring about peace to the Middle East region, according to Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour.

The minister told the Jordan Times that talks with Dr. Abdul Meguid covered the league's plans to restore solidarity among Arab states, the league's future status and other topics related to Dr. Abdul Meguid's current tour.

"Since the new world order revolves around the United Nations and the policies of its member state, the Arab region should have its new regional order revolving around the status and the role of the Arab League," Dr. Ensour said. This idea and others, he said, were discussed with Dr. Abdul Meguid during his two-day stay in Jordan in the course of his tour of Arab capitals.

"Dr. Abdul Meguid has the sincere desire to bring about solidarity among Arab states and to reactivate the role of the Arab League, but such moves depend solely on the attitude and the views of the Arab League member countries," Dr. Ensour said.

The foreign minister said that solidarity was badly needed now when the Arab order's weakness was exposed by the Gulf crisis which affected all Arab countries.

At a meeting with Prime Minister Taher Al Masi, Petra said, Dr. Abdul Meguid discussed current Arab affairs, means to mobilise Arab efforts to confront the coming challenges and support for the Arab League.

Upon leaving Jordan, Dr. Abdul Meguid said that his visit had achieved its purpose in the course of establishing solidarity among the Arabs and launching joint Arab action.

In the coming two weeks, Dr. Abdul Meguid said he would resume his tour of Arab countries and his visit to Iraq would come at an appropriate time.

Referring to the current peace efforts in the Middle East, Dr. Abdul Meguid called on the Arab parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to coordinate their stands for the coming stage.

At the end of the meetings co-chaired by Mr. Maini and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat.

According to the statement, the company's gross revenues last year reached JD 11.5 million. Expenses reached JD 10.1 million. In 1991, the statement said, total revenues would reach JD 10.2 million, while expenses would amount to JD 8.7 million.

The general assembly discussed the company's future plan and operations for the transportation of goods between Iraq and Jordan.

Mr. Maini told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the meeting, that he would take part in an Arab meeting in Cairo on Sunday to discuss matters

related to transport and communications among Arab countries.

The ILTC, which was established in 1980, made a JD 2.65 million net profit from its 1989 operations. The decline in revenues last year was attributed to the Gulf crisis and the subsequent decline of the company's transport operations.

Government considering selling troubled bank's branches in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is considering selling the three branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in Jordan and a decision could be announced in 10 days, senior banking sources said Friday.

"It has been decided in principle not to order the bank liquidated since its financial position is quite strong," said one of the sources. "The authorities are now involved in extensive discussions on who to sell the bank to and how best to handle the sale," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

Other sources said the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), which took over the BCCI in Jordan following the international collapse of the Luxembourg-based bank earlier this month, was more inclined to sell the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom to one of the larger Jordanian banks.

"There is a group of businessmen who have floated

a proposal to set up a new entity to buy the BCCI in Jordan, but the authorities prefer to deal with one or other of the existing Jordanian banks," said another source, who also requested anonymity.

The CBJ has adopted a policy of trying to limit the number of banks in Jordan by encouraging voluntary mergers of smaller banks and its preference to sell the BCCI branches to another existing bank falls in line with this policy, banking experts noted.

"Several Jordanian banks have expressed interest in buying the BCCI branches," said one official. "But the government has not reached any decision in this regard."

BCCI depositors in Jordan have already withdrawn JD 14 million — about half of it from foreign currency accounts — under limited withdrawals permitted by the CBJ, leaving the equivalent of about JD 22 million in foreign currency accounts and JD 29 million in dinar accounts.

Depositors with less than JD 1,000 are permitted full withdrawals and others get JD 1,000 and 25 per cent of the

balance in their accounts pending the final decision on the fate of the bank.

According to Fakhri Bilbeisi, regional manager of the BCCI, the bank's advances and loans to its clients in Jordan amount to around JD 21 million in addition to its real estate and other assets.

"All our advances and loans carry strong collateral and guarantees and there is no risk involved at all," said Mr. Bilbeisi. "All the collaterals are in Jordan," he emphasised.

The bank has not started recalling the dues "since it is not necessary to do so at this point in time," said an economist who is familiar with the affair. "Short-term debtors might be asked to settle their dues soon, but it is not inevitably necessary for the bank to meet its obligations if the proposed sale takes place," he said.

Banking officials said the CBJ, which has appointed a committee to supervise the affairs of the BCCI, did not have to pump in any funds to keep the institution afloat since almost all of the local BCCI deposits in foreign currency were transferred to the CBJ

before the international collapse of the bank.

Banking experts say the CBJ will not have any major trouble in dealing with the international tie-ups of the BCCI branches in Jordan since all banks in Jordan — locally-owned or otherwise — are governed by Jordanian banking regulations.

Customer reactions to the BCCI collapse had been varied. For the small-Asian expatriate community — Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Indians and Bangladeshis — in Jordan the bank was the channel for remittances home in their own currency as permitted by the CBJ.

"Now, I have to get a dollar or sterling pound cheque from any other bank drawn on a bank in New York or London and it takes about a month for clearance at home," said Mr. Hamid Hussein, a Pakistani expatriate.

A prominent Jordanian businessman, who says he has a "five-figure" balance in his BCCI account in Jordan, blames himself for "not listening to advices from friends who told him that BCCI was in trouble."

Ministry to tackle labour issue

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Labour Ministry plans to hold a series of national conferences and seminars to deal with the question of labour and workers in Jordan and with creating new jobs for university and community college graduates in various regions, according to Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

"The ministry will continue to support the creation of income-generating and production pro-

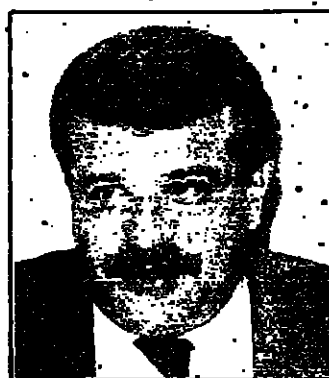
jects and will finance such projects after conducting feasibility studies through the newly created Development and Employment Fund (DEF) in a bid to stem unemployment in the Kingdom," the minister said at a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of trainees in the fields of brick-making, tile-cutting and baking, areas where non-Jordanians are currently employed.

Unemployment is a national issue and all citizens have the responsibility to help in solving it, the minister said in his address at the ceremony during which 50 trainees graduated and received their diplomas.

The Minister of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has been sponsoring such training courses in addition to offering vocational training within its normal programmes at its various centres.

Workers in bakeries, brick factories and others are badly needed in Jordan to take over from the non-Jordanian workers, according to officials. The minister called on the bakeries graduates to visit the ministry and obtain a special licence to establish bakeries financed and supported by the National Aid Fund (NAF) exempt from tax.

"The government will grant state owned land to those citizens willing to embark on production



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

erroneate. The centre's Director Yahya Al Saoud told the meeting that the 50 graduates had received theoretical and practical training in stone cutting, mosaics work, tiles and marble-cutting, and working in bakeries.

Out of the total number, 20 were trained in baking.

IDB grants JD 1.6m loans for industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has approved extending eleven loans worth JD 1,664,500 to finance several industrial projects. IDB sources said two credits, classified as risk capital loans worth JD 75,000, were extended for an existing industrial project manufacturing computer models. The sources said the IDB would grant a JD 9,500 loan to finance part of the costs of conducting a study for an existing industrial project. The rest of the loans, the sources said, were extended to five existing projects and three for new projects. According to the sources, 54 per cent of the value of the loans were extended to financing fixed assets while the remaining 46 per cent were extended to financing the purchases of raw material. The bank has granted 50 loans worth JD 7,429,000 since the start of the year till July 25.

Training Opportunities In The USA For Business, Manufacturing, Service Personnel And Others In Private Sector Enterprises

The Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), invites women and men who are Jordanian citizens competent in written and spoken English to apply for short term training that will be useful to private sector businesses.

Training in practical business skills will be provided for up to 6 months at training institutes, universities and businesses in such fields as marketing, management, banking, accounting, computers, production methods, quality control, and more. As an example of the kind of training that is available is the Small Business Management Programme offered by the International Institute for Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School. The programme was developed for individuals working in private enterprises and includes courses in business planning and management, accounting and information systems, entrepreneurship training and productivity.

Applicants or their employers must contribute to the cost of the training.

USAID training specialists will work with employers and participants to identify the most useful training opportunity within the United States for the individual and the business, and will make all arrangements.

Applicants and employers interested in this opportunity should write in English to:

The Ministry of Planning
Training Section
P.O. Box 555
Amman, Jordan

OR

USAID, Training Office
P.O. Box 354
Amman, Jordan

Iraqi-Jordanian company discusses future plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Once the current economic embargo imposed on Iraq is lifted, the fleet of tankers and other trucks owned by the Iraq Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) will be expected to play a major role in the process of exporting Iraqi crude, according to Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Satfar Maini.

Speaking at the conclusion of the IJLTC general assembly meeting in Amman, the minister denied reports in the western press

that the United States intended to allow Iraq to export limited amounts of oil in order to purchase medicines and food. "U.N. sanctions on Iraq are still in force and nothing has happened concerning this question yet," the minister said.

"Iraqi oil, he added, would be exported through Turkey and Aqaba and the IJLTC trucks will play a major role in these exports.

The IJLTC, which owns an estimated 900 trucks of various types, has realised a JD 1.4 million in net profits from its 1990 operations and, according to predictions, the company is expected to make a JD 1.5 million in net profits from the 1991 operations, in accordance with a statement at

the end of the meetings co-chaired by Mr. Maini and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat.

According to the statement, the company's gross revenues last year reached JD 11.5 million. Expenses reached JD 10.1 million. In 1991, the statement said, total revenues would reach JD 10.2 million, while expenses would amount to JD 8.7 million.

The general assembly discussed the company's future plan and operations for the transportation of goods between Iraq and Jordan.

Mr. Maini told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the meeting, that he would take part in an Arab meeting in Cairo on Sunday to discuss matters

related to transport and communications among Arab countries.

The ILTC, which was established in 1980, made a JD 2.65 million net profit from its 1989 operations. The decline in revenues last year was attributed to the Gulf crisis and the subsequent decline of the company's transport operations.

SALES AND MARKETING JOB OPPORTUNITY WANTED

A 30-year-old Jordanian Executive, single, male, Jordanian/American university graduate, self-started motivated person, well connected, aggressive salesmanship personality, very well travelled, looking for a challenging job opportunity with a foreign or local company perhaps in the hotels industry, as well or international trading business, willing to travel. Ready to provide company with the best selling system in the industry. 10 years of hard work and high experience in the world market such as Gulf area, USA, Canada — willing to put a marketing research can improve your business to the best level possible, excellent command of English, Arabic plus computer skills. Interested companies please call Mr. M. Abueld between 9 to 4 every day at 797366.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Ceramics exhibition by Hassan Al Zahr and Shams Al Sami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Handicraft exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THE JESUIT CENTRE

St. Ignatius Day Celebration

On Wednesday, July 31 Reverend Salim Sayegh, Bishop of the Latin Church in Amman, will be the main celebrant at a liturgy celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus. The mass will be celebrated at La Salle Church (Freres' College), Jabel Hussein, at 6:30 p.m. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Thomas J. Fitzpatrick, S.J., Superior of the Jesuits in Amman, Jordan. Following the liturgy there will be a reception at the Jesuit Centre (down toward the centre of the city from the Freres' College).

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
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Telephones: 661171/6, 670141-4

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Clarity to avoid crisis

THERE IS something that is still rather unclear about the policies of our new government. On Sunday His Majesty King Hussein made clear in a press briefing with visiting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Jordan has always been committed to peace, that it wanted a solution to the Middle East problem and that we are ready to sit in a peace conference with all parties concerned to discuss peace. And if the last hurdle in the path of convening a conference, that is Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's reluctance to join in, is overcome, then a peace conference is likely to be convened before October. Pending Israeli acceptance and the formulation of the Palestinian component of a delegation to the conference, it is expected that the Americans, probably with the Soviets, would call on the countries and delegates concerned to gather in Washington to inaugurate the conference. The question is: How is the government going to respond? Since constitutionally the government is headed by the King, and since the King declared Jordan's attention to attend, then the government is obliged to respond and send a delegation to the conference. However, during and following Wednesday's session of the Lower House of Parliament, at least two ministers pledged to resign from the government if it did go to the negotiations or went beyond the "red lines" of the conference. So are we going to have a political crisis on the eve of the long-awaited Middle East parley?

When this government was formed, it was termed by many as a government for negotiations. The government did not dispute that, nor did it confirm it. It reiterated that Jordan has a number of principles that it will not sacrifice, nor trample on. These are: Commitment to U.N. Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, the historical right of Palestinians, the PLO's right to be the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, rejection of separate peace talks with Israel, and Jordan's commitment to peace. The question the government has evaded so far is: Is it going to enter peace talks with the Israelis, on the agreement of all other parties and on the basis of 242 and 338?

The question is being asked in Parliament and the government seems to be evading a direct answer in order not to enter into battle with opposition deputies. However, Wednesday's fight on the floor of Parliament showed cracks in the ranks of the government itself. The prime minister has promised he will brief the House on the peace process. We hope that the prime minister will once and for all spell out the stand of his government on the issue. There are deputies in Parliament who oppose peace talks and there are those who support them. Likewise Jordanians at large are also split on the issue. Besides, all principal Arab parties, including the PLO and Syria, want to go to a peace conference. So if and when that conference is called and when everybody obliges, Jordan cannot possibly refrain or abstain, since Jordan will surely stick to its principles. That is why we believe there is nothing that would prevent the government from making its position clear for everyone to see, hear and comprehend. The government should not wait until the last moment to declare its position. If positions are made clear now, and if those within the House and the government make their positions known, then we can avert a possible crisis the day the peace conference is called. We have faith in Mr. Masri and his colleagues and we hope that soon they will dispel any and all doubts in the minds of deputies and people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian newspapers Friday expressed shock and dismay at the presence of saboteurs lurking among the Jordanian citizens bent on undermining the country's democracy and public freedoms.

Al Ra'i daily said that the statement from the official Jordanian spokesman about the activities of gangs hatching plots against the country and its citizens fell like a thunderbolt on the Jordanian people. The criminal group has been preparing for organised armed attacks on Jordanian economic centres and on innocent civilians with the purpose of destabilising the country's security, the paper noted. There is no doubt that this criminal group is trying to abort the country's firm strides towards democracy; and therefore, its actions constitute a real danger to all Jordanians, the paper noted. Any man in his right senses can by no means accept the idea of having such criminal groups causing a rupture in the country's security and stability by exploiting the present democratic atmosphere and public liberties, said the paper. Democracy provides a strong fortress for justice, national security and the supremacy of the law, said the paper. Therefore it said, there is no doubt that the criminal group, apprehended by the security services, will have a fair trial within the framework of the country's democracy and in the spirit of justice. The daily said that this country will remain steadfast in the face of conspiracies from any source, an oasis of peace and stability and a united nation ready to confront any danger.

Israel has escalated its programme of building settlements on Arab land right after the end of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region to peddle his peace plan, said Al Dussour daily. While the Israeli actions come as no surprise to the Arabs, one can only question the attitude of the U.S. administration which claims to be keen on paving the ground for peace, while in fact condoning Israel's illegal actions in secret, the paper noted. America's policy of appeasement to the Israeli leaders, its continued support and financial and economic assistance to the Jewish state are, of course, responsible for the Israeli extreme rightists actions in the occupied Arab land, the paper pointed out. The paper said that Mr. Baker has concluded five tours in the region without achieving any step towards halting the Israeli settlement programme and without forcing Israel to succumb to the international legitimacy.

By Benjamin Cohen

OVER the last 18 months, the demographic balance inside Israel has been radically transformed by the arrival of around 250,000 Jewish immigrants. Most of these originate from the Soviet Union, but it is the arrival of 17,000 Jews from war-torn Ethiopia that has grabbed world attention in the last few weeks. Billed as a triumph of Zionist endeavour, Operation Solomon has boosted Israel's self-confidence at a time when the U.S. administration is displaying growing impatience with the Shamir government's rigid position on peace negotiations.

Unemployment figures in Israel have reached colossal levels, and a secure future for the immigrants is by no means guaranteed. For the Palestinians, now entering into a profound debate on the future of the intifada — the wave of immigration promises a fresh round of land confiscation. With that in mind, it is important to recall Prime Minister Shamir's blunt statement in April that there is no connection between land settlement and a peace agreement.

Demography has always been a central obsession of successive Israeli governments. The high Palestinian birth-rate is closely watched by population analysts, and there is deep anxiety that up to 45 per cent of the total population could be Palestinian by the turn of the next century. Immigration is the key to ensuring a Jewish majority. However, while the combined Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants are a blessing for adherents of a "Greater Israel" ideology, there has been a serious lack of planning with regard to the welfare of the immigrants themselves.

In many ways, the Ethiopian immigration is reminiscent of the arrival of huge numbers of Oriental Jews in Israel during the 1950s and '60s. Although the Ethiopians have, until recently, been placed in hotels, as opposed to the tent encampments in which the Oriental Jews found themselves, jobs and housing are scarce commodities in Israel. A conversation with two young Ethiopians in the lobby of West Jerusalem's Diplomat Hotel revealed a sharp disillusionment with their

experience in the country. Both had arrived with Operation Moses in 1985, and both had been reunited with their families following Operation Solomon. Shaul, 17 years old, and Gilat, 19, admitted that they would go to the United States at the first opportunity. Lack of job prospects is the principal reason.

Bleak outlook for the Ethiopians

But it is unlikely that many Ethiopians of the younger generation will ever be able to relocate to the US. They simply will not be able to afford to. Israel's worsening economic situation may therefore precipitate an acute social crisis. Immigration procedures are no longer characterised by bureaucratic management; instead placement of the immigrants will be decided by the market. Israeli Finance

Minister Yitzhak Moda'i stated last month that "we have to reorient immigration and rethink the idea of direct absorption." Such remarks do not bode well for the Ethiopians. This should not imply that direct absorption was a success — Oriental Jews remember only too well the racist treatment they received at the hands of the Labour Zionist establishment. Yet, left to their own devices in a completely unfamiliar social framework, the Ethiopian Jews face impossible odds in a state that claims to represent them. Another problem the Ethiopians have been confronted with is the wrangling between the secular kibbutzim and the religious parties; the former would like to assimilate the immigrants into their way of life, while the latter are fearful that any contact with non-religious communities will lead to an "erosion of traditional values".

Shortages of jobs and houses

For Soviet Jews living in the development towns, unemployment is currently running at a mammoth 80 per cent. Given that large numbers of the Soviet immigrants are professionals, the chances for the Ethiopians recede even further. Indeed, most of the competition in the labour market is over the menial tasks that were previously assigned to Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza; in the wake of the Gulf war, and with regular curfews in the occupied territories, the Labour Zionist concept of "Hebrew Labour" is undergoing something of a revival as Jewish street cleaners and building workers become visible on Israeli streets. Nevertheless, appearances can be deceptive. A Bank of Israel report issued on 24 April estimates that up to 400,000 Israelis could be unemployed by the end of

1992. The housing situation is equally bleak. With rents in cities within the "Green Line" out of the reach of most immigrants, there has been a concerted turn towards those areas inhabited by the Palestinians. All this is very much in keeping with Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to settle thousands of immigrants along the length of the Green Line, creating a buffer zone between the Arab communities on both sides. The region in question extends from the Latrun enclave up to the Jezreel valley, and involves 200,000 Jewish immigrants.

Mr. Sharon announced his plan on the day in April when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived for talks. This is indicative of the government's commitment to squeeze the Palestinians through land policies, and to solve the immigration crisis at

their expense, torpedoing any notions of territorial compromise at the same time. Writing in Ha'aretz, Israeli analyst Memo Benvenisti observed that Mr. Sharon's objective is to create geopolitical facts accomplished in a manner that will leave his opponents with mouths gaping. He wants to rip off the masks of evasion and disregard of reality which characterise those who oppose the settlements in the territories. Similar policies are being pursued in the Negev region, threatening the existence of the Bedouin community. Despite Baker's strongly worded remarks about settlement policies, the U.S. has ratified a housing agreement with Israel and has agreed to provide subsidies for the immigrants.

It is clear that territorial expansion and immigrant welfare do not go hand in hand. A minor scandal emerged earlier this year, when the daily newspaper, Hadashot revealed that dozens of Soviet Jewish women were earning a living as prostitutes. Another disturbing phenomenon is the rate of suicides among Soviet immigrants. Following a report in the Jerusalem newspaper, Ha'ir that as many as 125 immigrants had taken their own lives this year, the Jewish Agency announced that it had set up a commission of inquiry. Its focus is on "psychological" factors, rather than on the difficulties within the absorption process.

Increasing numbers of Soviet Jews are expressing a desire to leave Israel. Those who do leave, though, are not necessarily freed of worry. In an episode replete with bitter historical irony, 269 Soviet Jews in Berlin who have claimed refugee status face deportation to Israel. When Foreign Minister David Levy paid a visit to Germany, he demanded that the authorities put the Jews on a plane to Tel Aviv. As Israel's immigration strategy takes on an increasingly coercive character, the implication for the Ethiopian Jews is that they have no choice but to stay. How long they — and the Soviet Jews — will tolerate the platitudes of Israeli leaders is another question altogether — Middle East International, London.



M. Kahil

Nigerian newspapers lose sparkle under pressure

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters

LAGOS — Battered by decade of pressures from military and civilian governments, Nigeria's newspapers are losing the spark of vibrancy and free speech that once set them apart in Africa. "The press has been intimidated and journalists have been brutally treated here during the past," said Oladapo Fafowura, head of the influential Manufacturers Association of Nigeria. "It has suffered terribly under both military and civilian governments." Mr. Fafowura, a former U.N. ambassador, told Reuters, adding: "Journalists don't have the moral courage of their predecessors."

The newspaper crisis is deep-rooted. Industry sources say that apart from government pressure since shortly after independence from Britain in 1960, it stems from poor training and equipment, low pay and a sense of defeat in a perceived role as the undisputed watchdog over government.

Other factors include poor distribution in Africa's most populous country and problems of access to officials who suspect some media organisations of being anti-government, the sources say.

Newspapers are read by only a fraction of Nigeria's estimated 116 million people and have steadily lost ground to state-run radio and television, which reach all areas of the country.

"I hold the view that the Nigerian press is a bastion of nationalism and patriotism," Vice President Admiral Augustus Aikhomu told media executives in Lagos on July 17. "But you must concede that good intentions are not enough. The road to hell, we are told, is paved with good intentions. That is why you must strive at every turn to reconcile your vision of Nigeria with your professional obligations."

"Some... reports tend to foment a sense of hopelessness in the populace by giving the impression that government is incompetent."

Last month the military government expelled a Lagos-based correspondent for Britain's Financial Times, accusing him of writing articles intended to cause

disharmony in Nigeria.

In May, authorities briefly closed the offices of the independent Guardian Group after one of its papers alleged police involvement, officially denied, in the death of two university students during campus violence.

"Nigeria would probably not have declined as far as she has today in many fields if the press had been readier and more determined to protect the public interest," said Anthony Enahoro, a civilian information minister in the 1960s.

Tacitly accusing newspapers of toying the government line, he decried self-censorship and the use of extravagant language to laud little known people.

Mr. Enahoro, speaking at the launch of a weekly paper this month, also criticised the use of public funds for advertisements to praise or promote public functionaries.

The newspapers' immediate problem appears to stem partly from military concern for the smooth running of the planned return to civilian rule next year, an exercise fraught with problems in a country with a history of ethnic and political rivalry.

"This apparent concern is not reflected in people calling us up and telling us what to do," said Owyema Ugochukwu, editor of the Daily Times in which the government has a controlling

stake. But a Daily Times reporter, who asked not to be named, said there was self-censorship.

"The managing director is appointed by the government and has a lot of say. If he feels he has to be a public relations man for the government, then so be it," the source said.

A senior journalist with the Guardian Group said: "We are as patriotic as everyone else, but if things are going downstream it is our duty to say so."

On its comment pages, the respected Daily Guardian will sometimes balance two liberal articles with a third that is unmistakably pro-government.

The heyday of the free press in Nigeria was in the decade leading to independence and in the early 1960s before the first military coup and the 1967-70 civil war over the Biafra region's attempted secession.

"The press has its roots in militancy and reaction against the colonial masters," said Ndaka Irabor, Mr. Aikhomu's spokesman.

"The purpose for all papers was to get the colonial masters out. So there is an inherent and constant antagonism against authority," added Mr. Irabor, a respected former journalist.

Mr. Irabor was held in 1984-85 under a military decree allowing the government to jail reporters

Despite peace moves Israelis talk of next war

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Although the prospects of the Israeli government saying yes to U.S. peace proposals have brightened this week, many ordinary Israelis remain deeply suspicious of their Arab neighbours.

Less than five months after the Gulf war ended in the defeat of Iraq, their most formidable Arab foe, Israelis seem to take preparations for a next war more seriously than the prospects for peace.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"When you ask in generalities about a yearning for peace you get what seems to be a flexible policy," said public opinion pollster Hanoch Smith.

"When you get down to brass tacks you find people are frightened and closed," he told Reuters. "The basic attitude is unchanged."

As the United States tries to persuade Israel and Arab countries in the Middle East that the defeat of Iraq has created an unprecedented opportunity for peace, it faces the obstacle of an even more suspicious Israeli population.

A post-war survey by Mr. Smith found that only 15 per cent of respondents believed Israel should be more flexible towards peace negotiations because of the Gulf war.

Even as the fighting raged, with a frustrated Israel kept on the sidelines by U.S. pressure, Israelis seized on the Iraqi Scud missile attacks against their cities to reinforce previously held views.

Those who felt Israel's security would be best served by securing peaceful relations with its Arab neighbours, pointed to the long-range missile attacks as proof that holding disputed land and ignoring diplomacy provided no guarantee of peace.

Those who questioned earlier U.S. efforts to open Arab-Israeli peace negotiations saw the same attacks as a sign of implacable Arab hostility that proved Israel needed "strategic depth" provided by the occupied territories, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israelis were relieved when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait last August 2 led to a war in which most of his vast armoured forces were turned into twisted metal.

But doubts about the significance of the allies' blitzkrieg have been magnified by continuing uncertainty over the extent to which Iraq's ability to threaten Israel has been neutralised.

"It is not only Israel that has changed little," said Yochanan Peres, a professor at Tel Aviv University. "The world has changed little."

When Washington earlier this month threatened to bomb Iraq unless it revealed the extent of its nuclear weapons programme, city officials in Tel Aviv ordered a check on the readiness of its bomb shelters.

"We are very concerned by this development, including Syria's attempts to get even more dangerous weapons. Our restraint during the Gulf war should not be taken as applicable to any set of circumstances," — David Levy.

Tel Aviv was the target for most of the 40 Iraqi Scuds fired at Israel. The damage was light and two people were directly killed. But the spread of war to Israel's civilian population for the first time since 1948 left a psychological scar.

That has not generated any evident support for a U.S. armistice plan to eliminate the ballistic missile threat. But the Scud attacks have fed a fear of missiles that was purely theoretical before the Gulf war.

Reports that Syria has been purchasing more advanced models of Scuds since the war have helped restore its position as the country Israel fears most — even though it has had older Scuds for

years. "We are very concerned by this development, including Syria's attempts to get even more dangerous weapons," Foreign Minister David Levy said last month. "Our restraint during the Gulf war should not be taken as applicable to any set of circumstances."

An Israeli siege mentality nurtured through more than four decades of hostility has not been changed by the outcome of a war that has become merely number six in a series expected to continue.

Fears have been reinforced by continuing warnings from the Israeli military — the most respected institution in the country and an organisation fighting budget cuts.

A question addressed to an intelligence commander in the latest issue of the army's magazine Bama'haneh read: "The army's multi-year plan is based on no war occurring within the next two years. In light of what's happening in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, isn't that too much of a gamble?"

"The officer, identified only as 'Brigadier General S,' replied: 'The programme doesn't contain the fact there won't be a war. The army will be prepared for war during the next two years, of course.'"

Defence Minister Moshe Arens has called for speeding up development of the U.S.-designed Arrow anti-missile defence system to provide better protection than the spotty coverage provided by the American Patriot anti-missile system in the last war.

Millions of gas masks distributed to the Israeli public before the Iraqi attacks were not recalled. Israelis were told to store them in case they were needed again.

The newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth warned this month that possibly defective masks have not been replaced and additional ones have not been provided to immigrants who arrived since the Gulf war.

Nearer home, the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has faded as a mass movement, only to be replaced by an increasing use of guns against Israelis.

Is Algeria's old Casbah losing battle?

By John Baggeley
Reuters

ALGIERS — The Casbah is crumbling, and with it a focal point of Algeria's long and colorful history.

Old Yamina's house is the latest casualty. It collapsed one Sunday morning this month. Now in her 80s, Yamina pulls nervously at her black robe and says: "I lived there before and during the war (of independence) when the French soldiers came, but never, never did I have to live in the streets." But when her house toppled she had to spend three nights sleeping in the open.

The Casbah, heart of old Algiers, dates back to 16th century Turkish Ottoman rule and stands on the site of a former pirate stronghold.

Its alleys are narrow and winding, cast in semi-permanent shadow by buildings that lean perilously together.

Bengued Fatma who owned Yamina's house, now a mound of rubble, said the building behind fell first. "It brought down my house," she said. Luckily many people were outside and no one was hurt.

Today, Yamina and 10 members of her extended family — the youngest 18 months — live in a curtained-off alcove in a neighbour's courtyard.

Four other families who shared the same building, about 80 people, are crammed elsewhere.

They see little hope of quick relief. Other families "in transit" are ahead of them in the housing queue. They live in emergency huts — wherever space can be found for these — in hotels and even in the town hall.

Clinging to the steep hill above the old Mediterranean port, the shabby white walls of ancient

buildings form a warren in a dying slum.

Those who remember say that until the 1970s it was a lively hub of Algerian nationalism — artists pursuing traditional crafts, fetes celebrated in now-vanished open spaces.

Desperate housing shortages fuelled by a growing population and austerity ended that.

The people remain welcoming, but the cloying smell of rotting rubbish hangs heavy in the lanes. Studded brown doors from the Turkish era open onto narrow spirals stone stairs. Above, the small barred windows let little light into overcrowded homes.

Deep yellow, blue or green patterned tiles speak of former splendour. But against the Museum of Popular Arts, the first town hall after France's occupation in 1830, rubble from another building underlines the present fragility.

One local official told El Moudjahid newspaper recently that 36 other buildings were in imminent danger of collapse. Building were graded A, B and C, according to perceived risk.

"You need to consider the whole area as a disaster zone," Abdelatif Hocine, the department official in charge of Casbah problems, was quoted as saying. There were an average of 24 "collapses" each month, he added. Some appeared to be just parts of walls but others were total.

Five years ago a rehousing programme started with the aim of making the Casbah a living museum. El Moudjahid said. Like other projects some two years later it hit economic crisis, slamming on the brakes.

Three decades ago the Casbah's streets provided precarious sanctuary for many Algerian



Restoration of Casbah would help reverse urban decay (File photo)

fighters, sometimes disguised as women to hide guns under dresses as they fought the French. The warren concealed their bomb factories and arms until a ruthless French military sweep pinpointed and wiped them out.

Scribbled painted signs support Islamic fundamentalists in today's challenge to Algeria's seculars.

But the challenge of neglect and irreversible loss looks like being lost.

Many buildings show cracks. The wooden poles supporting balconies inspire little confidence in stability.

Ten days before Yamina's house in Rue N'Fissa fell, gaps appeared in the walls. Then an inside wall collapsed, and the rest of the house began to tumble. A neighbour rescued Yamina's daughter-in-law and shouted to others to get out.

The man now sheltering them commented: "I've five families in my house. But this can't go on for ever... some people have been 'in transit' for years, and they are proposing to move some beyond Constantine (an eastern city 300 kilometres away)."

"We get promises, but nothing gets done," he said.

By Robert Lacville

THE WESTERN press likes to talk about "corruption" in the so-called "Third World." Now I am not going to deny that corruption exists in Africa. Alas, you only have to reach Lagos airport to know that "tipping" is the only way to get about. A passport is not a valid document in Nigeria unless there are some naira inside. But those low-level staff may not be what we mean by "corruption." Many Africans do not receive a living wage. If your family is on the edge of survival, and if you want to send the kids to school, what are you supposed to do? In Europe low-paid workers often take an undeclared second job "moonlighting." In the absence of minimum wage legislation in Africa, urban workers find their own solution by picking up extra cash through the very work for which they are underpaid. Low-paid workers in Africa set their own minimum wage. This is what I call "day-lighting."

There is another level of illicit income-generation which has nothing to do with survival. This is simply "enrichment." In most rural societies "enrichment" is not a factor. There may be richer people but they fit into a social structure which brings them obligations as well as privileges.

Rich children's marriages are more sumptuous not just because they want to make a show, but also because they are expected to provide a decent meal for the whole village. They have to give more charity to the indigent, because they have more to give.

In the urban setting, the compensation systems break down. The civil servant suddenly has a different status to maintain. He wants to own a motorbike... then a motorcar... then he needs a Mercedes to join the tribe of the Wabenzi, the East African tribe composed of people who have reached a pinnacle of corpi-

ous consumption by owning a benz.

What the Muzenbi is in fact doing is modeling himself on Eastern society. African countries have received the benefits of French or British education systems, along with their disadvantages. The biggest of these is that foreign values replace African values. This is not a question of "capitalism" or "communism"; they are both white and foreign ideologies and Africa is forced to follow their models.

big kickbacks are in the building and public works and military supply sectors: which are dominated by firms from France and Britain and Germany and Italy and elsewhere.

Italy's leap into the Sahel ten years ago came disguised as "aid," but it was really a move to subsidise exports to Africa. Their recent decision to cut back "aid" to the Sahel is in response to calculations of bigger commercial gains to be made from "aid" to Eastern Europe. Well, we won't

cophone Airline which had just phoned him to say: "Honourable Minister, we are delighted to inform you that you have just won a lottery. Please allow us to congratulate you on this lucky chance. Please be good enough to tell us to which European capital you would wish to fly, and we will be happy to issue two First Class tickets for you and your wife."

The minister chuckled: "I don't remember anything about an airline lottery! Bloody fools. Do they think I am going to give them the new passenger rights they are asking for just because they are offering me a bribe?" But I have to confess something: I don't know whether he actually refused the tickets.

I heard this sweet story about the British. Let me tell you. It was a major building contract, and the new Commercial Attaché at the British High Commission knew that he had to negotiate a bribe for the Minister of Public Works. He felt quite inadequate for the task; but as we shall see, his native wit and suavity carried him through with hypocritical aplomb.

The Commercial Attaché did some homework, and found out that the Minister was a bibliophile as well as venal and that he enjoyed English literature as well as financial kickbacks. The Attaché therefore ordered (with taxpayers' money, naturally) a leather-bound copy of The Selected Works of Thomas Hardy, together with £5,000 in new sterling bank notes. The book when it arrived was indeed a handsome volume. He slipped the new pound notes inside the book, and made an appointment to see the minister.

On the appointed day, the Britisher arrived at the ministry with his book and his briefcase. After the usual formalities, the Attaché raised with the minister the subject of the forthcoming adjudication for the very important public works contract, for which a Brit-

ish consortium had applied. The minister mouthed the usual words concerning "sealed bids" and "scope of work" and "technical excellence," and assured the Commercial Attaché that the British bid would be considered on its merits. At this point, the briefcase was opened.

"Honourable Minister, I understand that you are very fond of the works of the British author Thomas Hardy. My government would be very flattered if you would accept as a gift this modest volume of his works."

The minister took the volume with gracious thanks, and opened it. On seeing the money, his fingers moved gently to caress the new notes, and to count them. Satisfied, he placed the book in his desk drawer.

"I am most grateful to Her Majesty's Government for this token of good will. I am indeed very fond of the works of Thomas Hardy, and this is an attractive presentation of the selected works. However, I believe I am not mistaken in suggesting that the complete works comes in two volumes?"

The Commercial Attaché gulped £5,000 was already a lot for any civil servant to handle, and he certainly had no authority to double the amount. Yet to refuse would be to fail, to lose the contract, and to lose the £5,000 already "invested." He took a quick decision.

"Honourable Minister, your knowledge of English literature does you credit. You have indeed shown your reputation as a bibliophile is no exaggeration. Unfortunately, I believe that the second volume is out of print; but it may be possible for my government to provide an Appendix."

History recounts that an Appendix was provided. The sealed British bid for the public works contract was found to be superior in design, in cost, in scope of work, and in technical excellence — The Guardian.

"It is no exaggeration to suppose that most government purchases in the region are subject to over-invoicing. This is how many senior civil servant and army officers make their money from the secret cash discounts. But naturally it is not only Lebanese: every trader does it. The really big kick-backs are in the building and public works and military supply sectors."

Invoicing is a foreign import. Over-invoicing is another foreign import. Invoicing was probably invented by the Phoenicians some 2500 years ago, as they extended their commercial empire along the Mediterranean coastline and then between the Pillars of Hercules down the western coast of Africa. Over-invoicing was probably introduced into West Africa by their Lebanese descendants, whose recent domination of coastal trade along the Gulf of Guinea has been almost as complete.

It is no exaggeration to suppose that most government purchases in the region are subject to over-invoicing. This is how many senior civil servant and army officers make their money from the secret cash discounts. But naturally it is not only Lebanese: every trader does it. The really

miss them! Italian firms have been building lousy roads with no foundations, and littering their edges with poorly maintained Fiat trucks. They didn't care about our pot-holes: it was the EEC who paid the bills, and who paid their profits... and the bribes to government officials to keep quiet about their poor quality workmanship.

The desire for big money comes from the West; and it is satisfied by companies in the West, using taxpayers' money. It is a constant complaint among European exporters that "our government did not give enough subsidy to make us competitive." These aren't African taxes, they are European taxes.

I remember an African Minister of Tourism grinning delightedly as he told me about the Fran-

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Backley sets new record at World Student Games

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — At last, what fans waited 12 days to see: Steve Backley breaking the World Students Games javelin record and Hollis Conway straining in vain to set a new one in the high jump.

Some 25,000 spectators crammed into the Don Valley Stadium Thursday for the final day's action of the 16th games.

The best was saved for last. There had been no Robson Da Silva, the Brazilian 200-metre sprint champion; no Oladipade Adeniken, the Nigerian who was one of the few men to beat world 100-metre record holder Leroy Burrell last year. There was no Peter Rono, the Kenyan Olympic 1,500-metre titlist. All failed to turn up.

Even Soviet world triple jumper Inessa Kravets only arrived in time to tackle the long jump. But here were Conway, the American record holder, Olympic silver medalist and world indoor champion, and Backley, the European titlist and former world record holder.

Both had injury problems yet both delivered performances that lit up the stadium.

Backley, who is recovering from a leg muscle injury, launched the javelin 87.42 metre (286 feet, 10 inches) to eclipse the games mark he set two years ago in Duisburg, Germany, by 1.82 (5 feet, 11 1/2 inches).

His next task is to win the World Championship in Tokyo next month and recapture the world record Finland's Seppo Raty took from him in three months ago.

Conway already had won the gold medal with a leap off 2.37 metres (7 feet, 9 1/2 inches) by the time he went for the U.S. and

games record. Nursing a sore left thigh muscle, he tried three times to push his own mark to 2.41 (7-10 3/4) but failed. On the second, he caught the bar with his leg as he came down.

"I knew this might be my last Student Games," said the University of Southwestern Louisiana jumper who won a silver at Duisburg. "I wanted to win this."

Americans won five more golds on the final day to take their total on the track to 11 and games record to 29 gold, 23 silver and 24 bronze.

Elbert Ellis, of the University of Pittsburgh, won the 110 metres hurdles and Americans won all four relays.

John Drummond, Boris Goins, Michael Bates and James Trapp had two sloppy exchanges before winning the 400-metre relay in 39.10.

The men's 1,600-metre relay quartet of Chuck Wilson, Marlin Cannon, Brian Irvin and Gabriel Luke left Jamaica 2.28 seconds behind to win in 3:03.65.

Andrea James, Pamela Saldana, Chryste Gaines and Anita Howard breezed clear of Britain to win the women's 400-metre relay in 44.45 seconds, but the 1,600-metre squad had to come from behind.

Running last after Keisha Demas, Tasha Downing and Teri Smith, 400-metre gold medalist Maicol Malope turned a 15-metre deficit into a two second victory as she raced past Soviet Anna Chuprina.

American teams comfortably won the men's and women's basketball finals. The men whipped Canada 96-56 and the women

crushed Spain 88-62. The U.S. water polo team won gold after edging China 6-5 with Alex Rousseau scoring the winner six minutes from the end of the final.

China and the United States tied for gold medals in the swimming pool with nine each.

But the Chinese were almost unbeatable in the diving competitions, winning five of six golds.

China's Wu Feilong became the first diver in history to complete 4 1/2 somersaults off the platform on his way to gold in the 10-metre event.

North Korea outscored the Soviets 5-4 on golds in the gymnastics competitions although Japan had the most medals, one gold, six silver and six bronze.

South Korea won the soccer tournament but only after a tedious, goal-less final against the Netherlands.

The Koreans won it after a penalty shootout while the U.S. team gained a highest-ever fifth place out of the 16 teams and beat the host nation 1-0 in the qualifying rounds.

China's Xia Jia-Ping collected the men's singles tennis gold with a final victory over Italy's Francesco Micheliotti and Mana Endo downed Rika Hirako in an all-Japanese women's final.

Americans Brett Hansen-Dent and Susan Gilchrist won the mixed doubles.

Poland whipped the United States 3-0 in the men's volleyball final while the Italian women came from behind to beat the Romanians three sets to one.

The British men's team shut out Germany 3-0 in the field hockey final and the women's gold went to the Netherlands, who edged China 1-0.

Lemond still has some life.

AIX LES BAINS, France (AP) — A trip to Aix les Bains and its thermal baths may be just what Greg Lemond needed.

With the mountains — where he lost this year's Tour de France — behind him, Lemond returned to a mostly flat stage and gained ground on most of his rivals.

He came in fourth in the 177-kilometre stage that led down from Morzine to this spa.

The last time the tour visited Aix Les Bains, two years ago, Lemond won a stage just before his last-day heroics that won the tour for him by eight seconds.

He is out of contention now, but shaved about two minutes from Miguel Indurain's lead over him to 12 minutes, 25 seconds.

"I feel 100 per cent better than yesterday," Lemond said. "I felt very tired at the start but after the climb I felt very good. I don't know why I can't explain it."

Lemond lost almost eight minutes Wednesday on a cold, wet day that smothered his hopes and shifted the power to Indurain. A combination of problems ranging from a viral infection to swollen feet, sapped Lemond's strength in the mountains.

"Yesterday and Val Louron were bad," Val Louron was the worst I have ever felt," Lemond said.

Indurain has all but wrapped up this year's race with three stages left. He has a 3:09 advantage over Gianni Bugno. Indurain held onto the lead for the seventh consecutive day.

In four, mountain stages, Lemond dropped about 17 minutes to Indurain and the other top riders.

"I don't want to quit. It would be too easy to quit," Lemond said.

After 11 stages, just before the difficult climbs to Val Louron,



Greg Lemond

Lemond wore the yellow jersey. Now it is a memory and perhaps a hope for the future.

"Next year I'll be back, it's not because it went bad this year," Lemond said. "I'm far from the end and my career in the Tour de France isn't finished."

Dmitri Konyshov of the Soviet

Union captured the 19th stage Thursday over Pascal Richard of Switzerland and Eduardo Chozas of Spain.

Lemond was 14 seconds back with the main pack, including Indurain, at 1:50 behind.

Indurain, who turned 27 on July 16, has been in the shadow of his Banesto teammate Pedro Delgado, who won the tour in 1988.

Now that Delgado is out of contention, Indurain is on his

own. He has been steadily improving after dropping out of the race in his first two tries in 1985 and 1986. Since then he finished 97th in 1987, 47th in 1988, 17th in 1989 and 10th last year. He captured the Paris-Nice Race in 1990 and came in second in the Tour of Spain this year.

Last year, he won the tough Luz Ardiden climb in the Tour de France stage in the Pyrenees but most of the attention was focused on Lemond, who took second and was closing in on the overall lead.

This year, Indurain won the time trial from Argentan to Alencon but again Lemond overshadowed him by going into the lead.

Now, Lemond is out of the picture and Indurain has his turn to shine in the yellow jersey.

Stage set for confrontation among S. African amateur athletic groups

CAPE TOWN (AP) — The stage was set for a confrontation between South Africa's amateur track groups when one of them said it would oppose sending a team to the games in Tokyo.

Harry Hendricks, president of the South African Amateur Athletics Board, said his group would urge against participating in Tokyo at a meet scheduled Saturday. The meet will bring together the three track groups making up South Africa's new, racially integrated Amateur Athletics Association.

At least one of the Association's other group supports com-

peting in Tokyo, which would end decades of isolation imposed on South Africa as punishment for its white government's apartheid policy of racial discrimination.

"There's going to be confrontation" if that is the case, Hendricks said. "They won't sway our people."

He spoke in a telephone interview after a meeting of the Western province Amateur Athletics Union, a member of the athletics board.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) has invited South Africa to compete

in Tokyo and is pressing the various bodies to set aside their differences and send a joint team. IAAF President Primo Nebiolo said Wednesday if no team were sent, an explanation would be expected.

"If they want to continue to be isolated, it's up to them, but we did our best," Nebiolo said in Sheffield, England.

Hendricks and other figures who oppose competing argue that apartheid is still alive in sport and politics. Hendricks noted that South Africa's black majority still has no right to vote, no representation in parliament, and that the education system is segregated by race. In addition, he said white athletes had far superior coaching and facilities.

"It would be a matter of slaves compete with the masters," he said, predicting it would take up to two years to eliminate the disparities.

Despite absence, Graf and Seles command attention at Federation Cup

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP) — Most of the attention at the Federation Cup is being focused on a pair of missing players.

While the United States and Czechoslovakia were advancing Thursday toward a semifinal clash, the headlines were about Monica Seles and Steffi Graf.

Seles was given 11 days by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to prove her late withdrawal from the event was caused by injury. Without a doctor's note, she could be barred from the 1992 Olympics.

Graf was home in Germany with a torn tendon in her right shoulder that forced her to pull out of the Federation Cup and sideline her for three weeks.

While the ITF gave Seles a deadline, it sent flowers and a get well card to Graf, who had reinjured the shoulder in Germany's second-round match

Wednesday against Canada.

Top-ranked Seles was given until Aug. 5 to produce a doctor's note. Without a medical certificate, she could be barred from the 1992 Summer Olympics — since the Federation Cup is a prerequisite for the Olympics.

The Federation Cup Committee met Thursday and issued a statement saying it "is concerned at the circumstances of the withdrawal of Monica Seles from the Yugoslav team."

Graf, ranked no. 2 in the world, was examined at a hospital in Essen, Germany, and team captain Klaus Hofmann said it was the same shoulder injury that forced her out of an exhibition event in May.

Barbara Rittner was to take Graf's place in singles alongside Anke Huber as Germany faced Italy in one of Friday's quarter-

finals. Zina Garrison and Gigi Fernandez, the top doubles players in the world, overcame a slow start Thursday to defeat Judith Wiesner and Petra Ritter 6-4, 6-1 and give the United States a 2-1 quarterfinal victory over Austria.

The American doubles team fell behind 4-2 in the first set, but won seven straight games to take control.

Wiesner had saved two match points to defeat Jennifer Capriati 6-2, 0-6, 8-6 in the opening singles contest. She fought off the two match points on her serve in the 10th game of the final set.

"When I saw that I could come back from two match points, I had a lot of confidence that I could win," Wiesner said. "I decided not to risk too much and to come in when I could. She never knew what I was going to do."

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

Men's Fragrances

"I want to find the right cologne for my husband's personality. Got anything called 'Big Slob'?"

GOREN BRIDGE

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SPOT THE ERROR

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ 7
♦ 9 6 5 4 2
♣ A 8 7 4 3

EAST

♠ 1 3 8 6 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 10 3
♣ J

SOUTH

♠ K Q 9 7 5 3 2
♥ A Q 8
♦ A K Q 10
♣ 7

the bidding:

East South West North
1 ♠ 4 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Here's another opportunity for our readers to play bridge sleuths. We will give you the bidding and play of this hand. It is up to you to decide who, if anyone, committed transgressions, and what they were. Certainly, the bidding can't be faulted. East had a very sound opening bid and South, with about nine playing tricks in hand, can't be blamed for jumping to four spades. West led the Jack of clubs, taken by dummy's ace as East contributed the deuce. The Jack of spades led to East's ace and the nine of clubs was

returned. Declarer ruffed with the nine and West overruffed. Since East's play in clubs showed interest in the lower of the unbid suits, West returned a diamond. East scored the ace and reverted to a club and, whether declarer ruffed high or low, West had to come to another trump trick for down one.

At first glance it might seem that nothing out of the ordinary had happened—declarer simply had to lose four tricks as the cards lay, so the outcome should be written off to bad luck. If you came to that conclusion, read on.

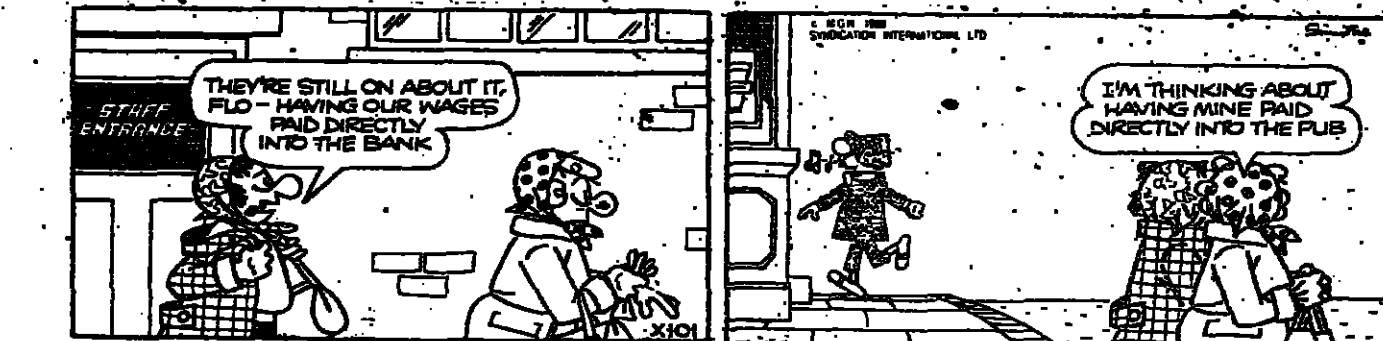
While the 4-1 trump break was rather unfortunate, it was not fatal. The proximate cause of the contract's demise was declarer's failure to break the defenders' line of communication.

Suppose that, instead of ruffing with four, declarer had discarded his losing diamond. Declarer can then ruff the club continuation low with impunity. West can overruff to complete the defensive book, but the defenders have shot their bolt. Declarer can win any return, draw the outstanding trumps and claim the rest of the tricks. In the trade, this loser-on-loser play is known as a "Scissors Coup."

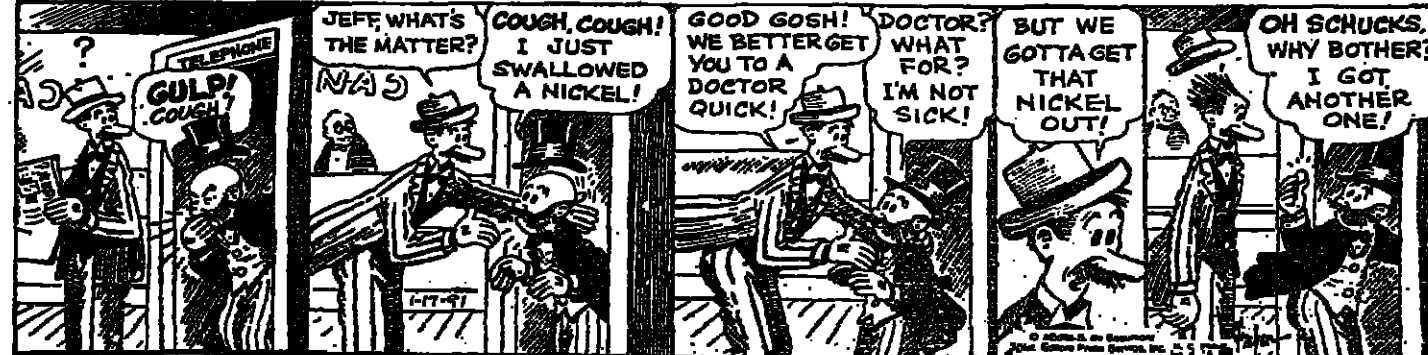
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 27, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You won't have the opportunity today with the Moon square Pluto to come to a new and better understanding with each and every ally with whom you want to need to get along with in days ahead.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid taking any chances in public and stick to doing those things which make others respect you as one who shows his goodness in deeds not words.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Make a point to envelope you new ideas in an aura of wisdom and consideration for others instead of talking chances with some new outlet.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't rely upon that hunch but instead listen to what one of experience has to suggest as the best manner in which to attend to your responsibilities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now find that most everyone realizes that you are the one who seeks some special consideration from another who is not in a present position to grant it.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to be sure you perform whatever you have to do in such a manner that others realize you are thinking of doing for them and then benefits will flow to you.

VIRO: (August 22 to September 22) That strong urge of yours to

relax and have a good time is all right if you rely solely on your own project and do not try to ask for other advice.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your interest in family matters can cause problems at your own dwelling unless you are very discreet and careful not to be too doctored.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be very careful in the highway and let all about see that you know the meaning of the word caution and consult with friends about your next step socially.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a good chance now to add to your income if you go along with an idea presented to you by your family who understand the project.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let those newcomers state to you what they have in mind before you make any decision or put any plan in motion since they are more experienced.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have an expert who will quickly give you the information you need so don't dash from one friend to another asking questions needlessly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the moment for you to show you follow the advice of partners who also have in any interest to some pet project you want to succeed with.

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Amman - Rio De Janeiro

Amman - Amra Hotel - 6th circle.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YERN

NAPOC

SOOJUY

DUSARI

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: **RODEO** **AGENT** **DRIVE** **WOEFUL**

Answer: What a revolution makes THE WORLD GO ROUND

THE Daily Crossword by Ruby Walsh, Wilkins

ACROSS

1. Laverne of "music"

5. Freight boats

10. Amusing person

14. Yemeni Gulf

15. "Heep"

16. Medicinal plant

17. Sound system

18. Orchestra member

19. Application

20. Green vegetable

22. Green leafed vegetables

24. Walked heavily

25. Truth to some

26. "On - Day"

29. Like the Cheshire cat

34. Oyster product

35. City or Ulysses

36. And not

37. Berets

38. US artist

39. Part of TAE

40. Imitative gift

41. Excite

42. Group of vehicles

43. Renovates

45. Teapot

46. One - time

47. "The King"

48. Green vegetable

52. Green vegetable

56. Achilles' heel

57. Animated fudd

59. Secondhand

61. Nonconformist

62. Prime donna

63. Greatest

64. Burns

65 - does it

9. "The turn of the tide"

10. Heavy threat

11. Jet

12. Cavort

13. Low grades

21. USMT mountain range

23. Talk wily

26. More able

27. Stop

28. Light generators

29. Fireless feature

31. Bay

32. Unusual

33. Fireless feature

35. Sticky stuff

38. Animals at times

39. Height

41. Church tribunal

42. Gen. agent

44. Writing pad

45. Knots in wood

47. Arabian chief

48. Pal

49. Flying prefix

50. Implore

51. Robert

53. Burma, India etc.

54. Rascal's motto

55. June 6, 1944

56. Captain's dog tag

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Max York Close	Tokyo Close
U.S. Dollar	1.6910	1.6630
Deutsche Mark	1.7360	1.7457
Swiss Franc	1.5130	1.5230
French Franc	5.9065	5.9260
Japanese Yen	137.55	137.60
European Currency Unit	1.1635	1.1787

USD Per STD
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.37	6.06	6.25	6.52
Sterling Pound	11.12	11.00	10.75	10.68
Deutsche Mark	8.61	9.06	9.25	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.81	7.81	7.68
French Franc	9.18	9.31	9.31	9.37
Japanese Yen	7.31	7.25	7.12	7.00
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.47	10.00	10.00

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	366.05	7.00	Silver	4.09	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 25/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1525	1.1532
Deutsche Mark	.3924	.3944
Swiss Franc	.4524	.4527
French Franc	.1155	.1161
Japanese Yen	.4974	.5001
Dutch Guilder	.3481	.3498
Swedish Krona	.1084	.1089
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532
Belgian Franc	.01926	.01916

For 100
Other Currencies
Date: 25/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7820	1.7930
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0790
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1853	.1864
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2025
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7550
UAE Dirham	.1853	.1864
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

For 100
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	23/7/1991 Close	24/7/1991 Close
All-Share	111.34	111.02
Banking Sector	106.14	106.09
Insurance Sector	119.43	119.37
Industry Sector	116.48	115.76
Services Sector	128.32	127.70

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6840/50	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1490/95	Canadian dollar
	1.7475/85	Deutschemark
	1.9675/85	Dutch guilders
	1.5245/50	Swiss francs
	35.92/96	Belgian francs
	5.9400/50	French francs
	1301/1302	Italian lire
	139.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.3250/3300	Swedish crowns
	6.8100/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.7510/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	364.50/365.00	U.S. dollars

EC clears \$0.9 b aid for Sabena

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The EC has approved Belgian aid of \$959 million to restructure Sabena World Airways, the country's ailing air carrier, saying it will not distort competition in the EC airline sector.

The EC commission said the 35-billion-franc aid package would be for a limited period to help restore Sabena's economic viability, fund a partnership with another airline and transform the state-owned carrier into a stock-ownership company.

The aid "is reasonably linked to difficulties in the company and will not transfer its problems into the airline sector because the restructuring and recapitalisation will include a reduction in capacity," the commission said in a statement.

Belgium "expressed its intention not to give Sabena competitive advantage over other airline companies," it added.

Belgium submitted its aid package on April 4.

Under the deal, Belgium will forego 16.2 billion francs (\$450 million) debts Sabena owes it,

pay 10 billion francs (\$274 million) to finance the laying off 3,000 of Sabena's 11,000 employees and provide nine billion francs (\$246.6 million) to fund a partnership with another airline that would also put money into Sabena.

The most likely partner is British Airways (B.A.). A partnership agreement is expected this summer and must be approved by the EC to ensure it will not distort competition in the EC.

This month, Sabena said it expects that B.A. will take a 25 per cent share in Sabena and pay six billion francs (\$164 million) into the Belgian carrier which has never turned a profit.

Sabena has long been in the market for a partner. Last Dec. 31, a proposed linkup with both KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and B.A. collapsed, partly because the EC commission objected that such a partnership would distort competition.

Since then, Sabena has had negotiations with Air France, American Airlines and B.A., among others.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	July 20-24	July 13-17
Daily average	JD 1,133,498	JD 1,012,634
Total volume	JD 5,647,492	JD 4,050,534
Total shares	2,961,907	1,863,347
No. Of contracts	3,983	3,021

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 3,680,258	JD 2,402,214
	(64.9%)	(59.3%)
Financial	JD 1,128,839	JD 1,229,921
	(19.9%)	(30.4%)
Service	(13.4%)	(8.8%)
Insurance	(1.8%)	(1.5%)
Share price index	134.1	132.7
No. of companies	74	72
Price movement (rise)	49	6
(Decline)	15	58
(Stable)	10	8

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The market turned bullish in the afternoon, boosted by firmer bonds and futures. The Nikkei rose 186.36 points or 0.80 per cent to 23,519.07.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended a depressed session 0.6 per cent lower. Many economists expect the Bundesbank to tighten its credit policy soon to combat rising inflation. The DAX index fell 9.74 to 1,605.64.

ZURICH — Shares ended a lacklustre session slightly easier as the market waited for new positive factors. The SPI index fell 2.2 to 1,118.9.

PARIS — Waning expectations of a cut in French interest rates and profit-taking before the August holidays undermined prices. The CAC-40 index ended 12.35 points lower at 1,767.66.

LONDON — The FTSE-100 index thrived on a strong equities futures market to register a record closing high of 2,589.3, up 9.7 on the day and 47.8 on the week.

NEW YORK — After a slight advance in late morning, blue chips slipped back at midday. But secondary stocks, led by gains in some technology issues, stayed steady. The Dow was down six at 2,974.

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MICHAEL BOSKIN

Fed policy on interest rates wins White House support

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House's chief economic adviser, Michael Boskin, has said that he agrees with the U.S. central bank's policy to hold off on further interest rate cuts until it sees the economy firmly on the road to recovery.

But Mr. Boskin suggested in congressional testimony that the Bush administration may again push for lower rates if the economy, which appears to be recovering from its first recession in nearly eight years, falters again.

"I think there's some reason for the Federal Reserve (Fed) to adopt a — for a very short period — wait-and-see attitude to see if the recovery really is as robust as they seem to think it's likely to be for the next few quarters," Mr. Boskin said.

The White House, anxious to see the economy grow as it heads into the 1992 election year, has often prodded the Fed to lower interest rates. But in recent weeks, administration officials avoided any public disagreement with the central bank over the issue.

Mr. Boskin, echoing the views of Federal Reserve officials, said he was concerned that cutting short-term rates now would fuel inflation and result in an increase in long-term interest rates, which could have a detrimental effect on the overall economy.

"If the Federal Reserve cut short-term rates now it's not totally clear what would happen to the long end of the bond market, the long-term interest rates," Mr. Boskin said.

But, he added: "The Fed is going to have to be prepared to add more reserves to the system if the economy looks like it's going to continue to be sluggish," Mr. Boskin said.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress last week that the central bank would wait and see if earlier easing moves were enough to put the economy solidly on the road to recovery.

Post-war Gulf economy faces financial black holes

DUBAI (R) — A year after Iraq's tanks rolled into Kuwait, Gulf states have found that no matter how much oil they pump, the profits seem to sink into deep black financial holes.

Add up the accounts of the countries of the Gulf and all can be shown to face economic hardship due to the events of the past year.

Saudi Arabia and Iran, by far the biggest Gulf economies, have seen their Gulf war oil profits soaked back up.

Economists forecast the Saudi government budget, which in common with all these oil-based economies is the driving force behind growth, will take three years to recover from the cost of funding a money-hungry war.

Iran stayed out of the war but its hard currency profits from windfall oil revenues are plunging into the jaws of a falling state-dominated economy, economists say.

Up until this month, the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) dominant oil producing emirate of Abu Dhabi might just have qualified as a winner in the post-war economic stakes. Profits from its extra oil output due to the crisis were outpacing war costs.

But the enforced closure by central banks on July 5 of the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), in which the Abu Dhabi ruling family held a 77 per cent stake, has left the emirate facing billions of dollars in losses.

Iraq remains in political turmoil, and under the thumb of the United Nations Security Council which shows no signs of lifting a

crippling embargo on its war-shattered economy.

Kuwait's oil industry was destroyed by allied bombing and by Iraqi sabotage. Its production has staggered back to about 140,000 barrels per day compared with two million before the war and plans to resume limited exports have only just been announced.

To make up for the lost 4.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil exports, Gulf Arab allies raised output.

Saudi Arabia now averages eight million b/d oil output against 5.5 million before the war.

However, a rough average price of \$16 to \$17 per barrel net of production costs for 6.5 million b/d in export sales over the past 12 months should have earned the kingdom \$40 billion.

Economists set that against an estimated \$60 billion in Saudi contributions to allies such as the United States, and Egypt, the cost of its own war supplies, and domestic damage.

Doing the same kind of sums for Iran gives earnings of \$13 billion. But Iran is struggling with its distorted currency and price system.

Abu Dhabi took in around \$6.5 billion oil earnings over the year. But bankers calculate closure of Luxembourg-based BCCI (Holdings) S.A. could cost it between \$4 to \$15 billion.

The only beneficiaries from Abu Dhabi's 1.9 million b/d output may turn out to be the international oil firms which are 40 per cent equity holders in the emirate's oilfields, such as Ex-

xon, Shell, British Petroleum, and Mobil.

No more windfall oil profits are expected soon. Oman has found that the decisive removal of the Iraqi threat to the free-flow of world oil supplies has lowered oil prices. Western economic recession has compounded the oil price decline.

Oman now finds itself with a budgeted 1991-95 five-year plan based on expected oil revenues of about \$20 a barrel that may turn out to be no more than \$16 per barrel.

The plight of state finances inevitably hit local banking and business interests. Gulf investors have always pushed the bulk of their money out of the region but Iraq's invasion frightened them into shifting even more abroad.

Bahrain bankers say the crisis aggravated a decline in banking there due to the sharp fall in regional money flows after the 1980s oil price collapse.

Local banks suffered another blow from BCCI's closure, which hurt their image as safe havens for savings.

Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, the biggest Arab international bank, felt it had to issue a statement last week denying any effect on its business from the BCCI scandal.

Western banks have picked up more local business as a result.

The UAE emirate of Dubai could lay claim to be a post-war winner. Traders and hotels who served the foreign armies during the war are profiting from businessmen who choose the emirate as their Gulf base during the rebuilding of Kuwait.

Kuwait squeezes banks

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government is more than willing to bail out cash-strapped banks provided they merge, the central bank said.

Central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, said in a statement there were too many commercial banks in Kuwait and they had no choice but to amalgamate.

"If the institutions do not merge with each other, they will not benefit from the advantages of government support because this support is conditional on the merger operation," he said in a statement to Al Watan newspaper.

He said the process would begin in August.

The government has a majority stake in five of the six commercial banks. The only bank in good financial health is the National Bank of Kuwait, which is outside state control.

"The loans portfolio of the banks has depreciated in value because of the loss of their mortgaged assets and this has led to a

deficit of these banks. State support is still present but will not solve their problems. Thus banks need restructuring again as the number of the banking units is more than is needed," he said.

Bankers say Kuwaiti banks could be exposed by up to six billion dinars (\$20 billion), the approximate value of their total deposits, because of old debts and capital flight.

Sheikh Salem said the emirate's banks were inefficient, debt-burdened and needed drastic cost-cutting measures to compete in a free market economy.

He said that to ensure fair competition, foreign banks would only be allowed to operate in Kuwait once mergers were complete.

"The central bank will not look into applications of foreign banks before the first half of 1992. It is not permissible to allow the presence of foreign banks when we have not yet tackled the position

of our local banks," he pointed out.

Sheikh Salem noted a massive switch to foreign currencies despite central bank curbs on cash withdrawals.

The government has limited withdrawals to 6,000 dinars (\$19,000) a month from each account.

He said depositors lacking confidence in the local currency had dumped dinars to the tune of \$2.4 billion in the period from March 24 till the end of June.

Sheikh Salem said the central bank had injected 600 million dinars (\$2 billion) into the banking system since March to help banks meet their needs.

The banks are also suffering from a lack of investor confidence in the economy.

Bankers say the government has spent about a billion dollars since March to support the dinar, which is now trading near its pre-invasion level of \$3.3.

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Yugoslav presidency meets again amid escalating ethnic violence

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Fighting broke out in Croatia again Friday as Yugoslavia's collective presidency met in yet another effort to avert an all-out civil war.

A Croat policeman was killed in an early morning ambush near the town of Otok in western Croatia and the town's police station came under sporadic mortar fire overnight, Croatian Radio reported Friday.

"Fierce" fighting between Croatian militiamen and ethnic Serbs was also reported Friday around the village of Brsadin, near the Serbian-Croatian border, 160 kilometres northwest of Belgrade.

Croatian Radio said there were dead and wounded on both sides but it gave no casualty figures. The westward-leaning republics of Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia declared independence June 25 from the central government long dominated by Communist Serbia.

The central government is taking measures that may allow Slovenia to secede. On Friday, federal authorities reopened Slovenia's airspace which had been closed since federal troops intervened June 27, the official Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported.

But Serbia and other republics oppose secession by Croatia, which has a large Serbian minority. Skirmishes Thursday killed 18 Croatian militiamen, a Croat civilian and a federal army sergeant.

Friday's session of the federal presidency was called by Stipe Mesic, Croatia's representative to the body and its current chairman, to "discuss the situation in Croatia and the engagement of the federal armed forces in accordance with their constitutional role."

Federal Premier Ante Markovic attended the meeting in Belgrade along with the minister of the interior and deputy defence minister, Tanjug reported.

A Monday summit of the eight-man presidency and the individual presidents of Yugoslavia's six fractious republics failed to find a political solution to the escalating violence.

Instead, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman walked out of the summit after the other presidents demanded Croatia's militia disarm. He urged Croatians to be prepared for war.

Slovenian militiamen and federal troops subsequently fought sometimes fierce battles after the military intervened to re-establish federal control in the republic.

A European Community-brokered truce, reached on July 8, ended fighting there. Last week, the federal presidency ordered the withdrawal of federal troops from Slovenia within three months and the army decided, Wednesday, to allow Slovene recruits and officers to leave the ranks of the army by Aug. 15.

Nada Serajinik, a spokesman for Slovenia's Adria Airways, confirmed that flights were resuming from Brnik Airport in the republic's capital, Ljubljana, and that the two other airports in the republic were reopened.

Settlement for Croatia would be more difficult because of its large Serb minority, which makes up about 12 per cent of the republic's 4.7 million people.

Serbia, the largest Yugoslav republic, maintains that if Croatia leaves the federation, Serb-populated regions of that republic should be allowed to go their own way.

Croatia's nationalist leadership considers this unacceptable. The mainly rural enclaves, where ethnic Serbs live account for about a quarter of Croatia's territory.

The federal army has rejected Croatian demands that it also withdraw from Croatia, saying it is needed to separate the warring parties, but federal troops have increasingly become engaged in clashes with Croatian forces.

MOSCOW (AP) — Communist leaders met for a second day Friday after an unexpectedly calm session that weighed Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to drop tenets of orthodox Marxism-Leninism from the party platform.

Members of the party's Central Committee opened the second day of a plenary meeting in the Kremlin on schedule at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT), a party spokesman said.

Political commentators, Kremlin watchers and even party members had expected the Central Committee plenary session that began Thursday to lead to a split in the party or to dissolve into a freeform of criticism over the Gorbachev platform.

But participants in the closed-door meeting said there was only mild criticism of Mr. Gorbachev's plan to renounce the party's totalitarian past, support private property and a free market, and integrate the country into the world economy.

"I think the main achievement of (Thursday's) session was that it was peaceful," said Nils Bikkjens, editor-in-chief of the party journal *Kommunist* and participant in the meeting. "I was even surprised to see that the plenum is proceeding so quietly," added headline Leningrad party boss Boris Gidaspov, in an interview with the Soviet News Agency (TASS). "I expected views to be sharply divided."

Nobody suggested Mr. Gorbachev resign as party leader, unlike the raucous April party plenum. There was no debate over a split in the party between hardliners and reformers.

The lack of strident opposition to the radical platform indicated that hardliners recognise the need to recast the party's image and try to recapture public support.

Mr. Gorbachev urged that a party congress be convened in November or December to adopt his platform after it is discussed by the party rank and file. The plenum is expected to endorse that move Friday, said politburo member Pyotr Luchinsky.

But Mr. Gidaspov and other speakers at the plenum said the issue of forcing Mr. Gorbachev to give up his party leadership may still arise at the party congress. TASS reported. A split in the party also could occur at the congress.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has signalled its support for restrictions on U.S. military aid to El Salvador as it struggled to complete action on a two-year foreign aid bill.

But the 56-43 vote came in preliminary skirmishing. Republicans warned they would delay a final vote on the entire bill in an effort to prevent Senate approval of the restrictions.

That shunted into legislative limbo the whole foreign aid package, which would provide \$14 billion in aid to U.S. allies around the world next year and a similar amount in 1993.

Even if lawmakers resolved the dispute over restrictions on aid to El Salvador, they would still have to deal with the thorny issue of whether U.S. assistance should be used to finance world population agencies that include abortion counselling among their services.

Congress has been unable to enact a foreign aid bill since 1985, in part because it becomes a magnet for such controversies. Lawmakers have been relying instead on appropriations bills to provide the money.

Senator Christopher Dodd proposed restricting aid to El Salvador as a way of maintaining pressure on the government there to stick with a United Nations-sponsored peace process and reform its military and judicial systems.

Sen. Dodd's amendment would withhold half of next year's proposed \$85 million in military aid as well as half of the roughly \$130 million in aid already granted but not yet delivered.

The Senate signalled its support for the restrictions by defeating a procedural motion to table the amendment.

The aid could be released only if the leftist rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the FMLN, failed to negotiate in good faith for a permanent ceasefire, killed civilians, received weapons from outside the country or threatened to topple the elected government.

"What the military really needs is a clear signal that the United States is not going to pay for an endless war in El Salvador," said Senator Patrick Leahy.

Arguing against it, Senator Richard Lugar said it was an effort by senators to "dabble in El Salvador, settle old scores, get at the military."

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani telephoned him Wednesday, Sen. Lugar said, and had but one appeal: "Let us negotiate as El Salvadorans."



Mikhail Gorbachev

Communists weigh Gorbachev's radical plans

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South Africa's rival black groups kill 9

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Rival South Africa black groups have killed nine men and women in a nationwide flareup of political violence, police said Friday.

A woman was shot dead on a Soweto railway station platform by a gang on a train bringing workers home from Johannesburg, police said in a statement.

The attack mirrored an incident Wednesday when unidentified attackers killed a woman and wounded several other commuters at a Soweto station.

A black man was burned to death in his car and another man was hacked and stabbed to death in separate attacks in Soweto on Thursday, police said.

In Cape Town, a woman and two men were burned to death when youths fire-bombed a shack in the old Crossroads 'shantytown', where supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) are at loggerheads with conservative black leaders.

Police said three black men were stabbed to death and four houses were fire-bombed around the Natal province town of Mooi River, where the ANC has been at war with the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party since 1986.

Civil rights monitors estimate that more than 6,000 people have died in a power struggle between Inkatha and the ANC, about 2,000 of them in the past year alone.

The ANC has accused police and the army of siding with Inkatha in the fighting.

Last week, a former soldier alleged in an interview with the New Nation newspaper that a shadowy army unit was behind several massacres on commuter trains around Johannesburg.

But South African Police Chief Johan Van Der Merwe said in a statement Thursday that 15 people had been arrested in connection with three train attacks and that none of them had any links with the police or the army.

He said the attacks appeared to have been linked to a gang war in the townships.

The ANC and other anti-apartheid groups have demanded an independent commission of inquiry into all aspects of political violence in South Africa and into the possible role played by police and the army.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said Thursday he would fund Inkatha again if necessary, and refused to resign over the scandal surrounding secret payments to the black political party.

President F.W. de Klerk did not know about the secret donations totalling 250,000 rand (\$87,000) and did not need to know they were legal, Mr. Botha said on state television.

Asked if he would resign, Mr. Botha said, "not for this reason." "If I must do it again, I will do it again in exactly the same way," he said.

The ANC has called for the resignations of top government officials. The ANC says disclosures of government payments to the Inkatha Freedom Party prove Mr. De Klerk is not negotiating in good faith when he promises to end apartheid and draft a constitution giving blacks political power.

Mr. Botha lashed back at the ANC, saying it had received hundreds of millions of dollars from covert sources and used it for violence. "The ANC was receiving money which they did not account for which they used to burn people with petrol and tires," he said in a reference to so-called 'necklace' killings.

Mr. Botha said the disclosures, prompted by newspaper reports, revealed no evidence the government had changed its plan to end apartheid or detracted from the reforms it has made since 1990.

"President De Klerk never said in unbanning the ANC that he was going to capitulate and hand this whole country over," Mr. Botha said in a reference to the president's legalisation of the ANC in 1990.

Mr. Botha's combative stance in the face of tough questions from journalists indicated the government will try to tough out the crisis. Opposition groups across the political spectrum have joined the ANC in demanding the ouster of cabinet ministers linked to the scandal.

The scandal has hurt Mr. De Klerk at a critical time, as he tries to start negotiations with the ANC and other black groups. But South African press reports Thursday said Mr. De Klerk did not plan to fire any ministers or order a major shake-up.

Mr. Botha acknowledged the government's image might have been "dented," but said it would rebound. "I am not apologising for it," he said. "We did the right thing."

Japan blames Moscow for uncertain regional security

TOKYO (R) — Japan blames a growth in Soviet military capabilities in Asia for continued uncertainty over regional security issues, the government's annual defence report said Friday.

"The Soviet Far East forces have continued to decrease their numerical strength but have continued to steadfastly strengthen their quality of equipment," the white paper said, "and therefore there is no change in the situation that this trend in the Soviet Far East forces is gravely affecting the military situation in the region."

"The Soviet Union has reduced its forces quantitatively in the region but boosted them qualitatively."

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The report's list of improved Soviet weapons in its Asian arsenal included Backfire bombers, T-80 tanks, Oscar-II class nuclear submarines, and Slav-class heavy cruisers equipped with nuclear missiles.

The document said Moscow was facing crises at home and was not in a position to act aggressively abroad. "The future of the Soviet Union is unclear," it said.

The Defence Agency, or ministry, recently released photographs of a Soviet Badger bomber taken by a Japanese Air Force fighter pilot, and said that Soviet Air Force flights around Japan have not abated despite the post-cold-war thaw.

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The Defence Agency, or ministry, recently released photographs of a Soviet Badger bomber taken by a Japanese Air Force fighter pilot, and said that Soviet Air Force flights around Japan have not abated despite the post-cold-war thaw.

Recession clobbers U.S. theme parks, resorts

BURBANK, California (AP) — Walt Disney Co. has reported its third straight drop in quarterly profits, a 31 per cent plunge as the recession kept visitors from its theme parks and resorts. In the quarter ended June 30, Disney earned \$165.5 million compared with \$238 million during the same period a year earlier. Revenue fell by 2 per cent, to \$1.51 billion from \$1.54 billion, during the quarter, the third in Disney's fiscal calendar. In a joint statement, chief executive Michael D. Eisner and President Frank G. Wells said the results reflected continued lower levels of domestic and international travel, the recession and lower than expected box office performance. For the quarter, revenue for the theme parks and resorts segment fell 12 per cent to \$759 million. Operating income declined 39 per cent from the year-earlier period, to \$176 million. Continued lower attendance at theme parks, decreased occupancy at resorts and expansion costs were factors in the lower results, Disney said.

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1,000 KGB agents to guard Moscow summit

MOSCOW (AP) — The KGB is working around the clock to arrange security for President George Bush's visit next week and wants to avoid a repetition of past friction with the U.S. Secret Service, a KGB colonel said.

In an unusual interview carried by the Soviet News Agency (TASS), Col. Valery Velichko said more than 1,000 KGB and regular police officers will provide security during the July 30-31 superpower summit.

In addition, more than 100 U.S. security specialists — mainly Secret Service agents — will guard the president, according to U.S. diplomats.

Col. Velichko, deputy head of the KGB department responsible for protecting state leaders, said the American bodyguards will be allowed to bring guns from the United States, and carry them during the summit. Under a reciprocal arrangement, the U.S. Secret Service has allowed KGB officers to carry guns during visits by President Mikhail Gorbachev to the United States.

Col. Velichko said the two agencies will stay in constant contact during the summit, and will use a uniform system of security passes and radio call signs.

However, he said, relations between the KGB and Secret Service have not always been smooth.

During then-president Ronald Reagan's visit to Moscow in June 1988, there was a certain wariness between the two organisations as they "grew accustomed to each other," TASS quoted him as saying.

"The Americans were afraid that we might do something differently," and they often covered us — shadowed our actions, for instance ordered transportation themselves, including for journalists, and this created additional difficulties," he said.

This time, however, we hope that there will be no surprises.

Washington (AP) — The Senate has signalled its support for restrictions on U.S. military aid to El Salvador as it struggled to complete action on a two-year foreign aid bill.

But the 56-43 vote came in preliminary skirmishing. Republicans warned they would delay a final vote on the entire bill in an effort to prevent Senate approval of the restrictions.

That shunted into legislative limbo the whole foreign aid package, which would provide \$14 billion in aid to U.S